NEWS / A2
IMF cuts RP growth forecast to 5.2% from 5.8% in 2008

LEARNING / G1
Pioneer Pinoy cooking school graduates conquer the world

NEWS / A8
DepEd says no classes in all levels today

METRO / A24
Former cemetery now a favorite wedding venue

SPORTS / A28
Roach wants Pacman to win by knockout this time around

Is the sky falling? Americans think so

WASHINGTON—IS EVERYthing spinning out of control?

Midwestern levees are bursting. Polar bears are adrift. Gas prices are skyrocketing. Home values are abysmal. Air fares, college

TO PAGE A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, June 23, 2008 ★ Vol. 23 / No. 199 website: www.inquirer.net

GMA fumes: Why was ship allowed to sail?

By Juliet Labog-Javellana in San Francisco and Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila

BEFORE LEAVING MANILA FOR THE United States on Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued orders for authorities to prepare for an approaching typhoon. When she later learned that a ferry with more than 700 pas-

SHOCKED AS

Ferry sinks; 700 missing

Bodies floating, kids wailing, says survivor

By the Inquirer Staff

WAVES AS TALL AS MOUNTAINS BATTERED THE MV Princess of the Stars and within 15 horrifying minutes, the ferry carrying more than 700 people sank in typhoon-tossed waters off Sibuyan island, one survivor recounted.

"There were many children trapped inside the boat. I could hear them wailing before the boat sank," said Horacio Larocon, a crew member of the 23,824-ton ferry who survived by clinging to the rope of a life raft until he hit land, along with three others.

Larocon said he could not forget the hundreds of bodies floating at sea and the cries for help from the victims as the ship keeled over and went under.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, reported 10 deaths from the vessel. But details were skimpy. It was unclear if the six bodies, including a man and woman bound together, that were swept to Sibuyan were among the fatalities.

The other passengers and crew were considered "miss-

FERRY SINKS/ A2

FRANK'S FURY

FATHER'S ANGUISH A man cries as he holds the body of his son who drowned in a river after Typhoon "Frank" struck Iloilo City.

ANXIOUS KIN Relatives of some ferry passengers weep as they await the latest news of the tragedy at the Cebu City port.

A VAN lies on its side on a flooded street in Iloilo City.

Pagasa says typhoon had erratic movement

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE EYE OF TYPHOON "FRANK" missed Metro Manila by a whisker.

The typhoon was at its strongest between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. yesterday, with its eye only 20 kilometers east of the metropolis, according to Nathaniel Cruz, weather chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The rains and winds were so strong that the Department of Social Welfare and Development had to postpone flying a planeload of relief goods to Western Visayas (Region 6), the most affected by the typhoon.

Frank made landfall in Eastern Samar before 5 p.m. on Friday, according to weather forecaster Lady Ariza.

Moving northwest, the typhoon had been expected to cross Samar and passed the Bicol peninsula on Saturday morning.

But Frank changed course and moved westward to Ticao Island and the Mindoro area instead, skirting Albay.

"Frank has a very erratic movement. Not only Pagasa but also other forecasting centers were also not able to predict accurately the path of Frank.

PAGASA/ A6

FERRY'S ROUTE

Typhoon puts Iloilo under water

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—MANY RESIDENTS spent the night on rooftops and desperately cried for help early yesterday as floods spawned by Typhoon "Frank" submerged most of Iloilo province and its capital city.

"This is the worst flash flood that the province has experienced," said Jerry

TYPHOON/ A10

'Frank' shifts course, batters Metro; 155 dead

A WOMAN retrieves her belongings after the typhoon battered Manila's coastal areas.

By Nikko Dizon, Ronnel W. Domingo, Terra Quiamanda, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Inquirer Bureaus

TYPHOON "FRANK" CUT A WIDE swath of destruction in a 48-hour sweep across the Philippines over the weekend, tossing boats at sea, triggering floods that forced families to flee to rooftops and killing at least 155 people, officials said.

Other estimates put the death at over 200.

Close to 106,000 people, representing more than 18,000 families, including a number in Metro Manila, fled to evacuation centers, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.

Packing maximum winds of 170 kilometers per hour, the typhoon shifted course on Sunday and battered Manila at dawn, dumping heavy rain on the capital. Major streets were flooded, and numerous traffic lights were out.

The sixth weather disturbance to menace the country this year also downed power lines and caused massive blackouts in franchise areas of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), including parts of Metro Manila and the provinces of Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Quezon.

Electricity service in as many as 314 of Meralco's 678 circuits—or 46 percent—was disrupted, the power firm said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, head of the Philippine National Red Cross, said the figure of 155 dead was based on field reports from his staff, who also

FRANK/ A10

Flood victims rescued by pals on jet skis

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—FOR THE PAST FIVE years, Rowendo Mejica II and his friends had been spending weekends skimming over the waters of Iloilo on jet skis.

But on Saturday, Mejica and his buddies headed for the flooded streets of

FLOOD/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central, some and the western sections of Northern and Southern Luzon will experience rainy weather. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rain with gusty winds.

Metro Manila	Mostly cloudy with rains	Iloilo	Mostly cloudy with rains
Baguio	Mostly cloudy with rains	Roxas	Mostly cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Mostly cloudy with rains	Kalibo	Mostly cloudy with rains
Laoag	Mostly cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Mostly cloudy with rains
Dagupan	Mostly cloudy with rains	San Carlos	Mostly cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Mostly cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy with rains
Legaspi	Mostly cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy with rains
Catbalogan	Mostly cloudy with rains	Davao	Mostly cloudy with rains

Temperature: 24°C to 31°C; Precipitation: 24 hours ending 8 a.m. today: 0.0 mm

Second FRONTPAGE

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SUERTRES

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P26,949,236.40

IMF slashes RP growth forecast

Fund predicts RP economy to rise 5.2% instead of 5.8% in 2008

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND YESterday scaled down its economic growth forecast for the Philippines in 2008 in the face of the slowdown in the global economy and rising food and fuel prices.

A visiting IMF mission from Washington led by Ji Hoong Lee said in a statement the country's gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 5.2 percent this year, lower than its earlier forecast of 5.8 percent and the 31-year high growth of 7.3 percent attained by the country last year.

The IMF warned that food and fuel-led consumer price hikes would remain close to double-digit levels in the coming months.

"The macroeconomic policy environment has become more challenging. The Philippines, together with its peers in the region, faces the twin challenges of a slowing global economy and mounting food and fuel prices," said the Washington-based mission, which considers oil an outside review of the country on June 15-26.

The IMF's revised growth forecast is in line with the actual 5.2 percent growth posted in the first quarter, which was well below market and government expectations and sharply lower than the previous quarter's expansion number of 8.4 percent.

Last month, the government lowered its growth forecast for this year to 5.7-6.5 percent from its earlier target of 6.5 to 7.0 percent.

Due to past fiscal reforms, the IMF said the impact on the overall domestic economy of the deteriorating external environment had on far been limited.

"Nevertheless, continued prudent macroeconomic policy is needed to navigate through the challenging time ahead," it said.

The IMF mission added that efforts to cushion the poor from the impact of high food prices were adding to the fiscal burden of the government, which has abandoned its goal of a balanced budget this year.

The IMF is also supportive of the government's "targeted pro-poor spending," referring to cash subsidies to poor households.

But it said the government must preserve its fiscal targets for 2009 given revenue-generating measures from legislated expansion of tax exemptions and cut to corporate income taxes that shall soon take effect.

The IMF reiterated its support for the passage of new tax measures, particularly the streamlining of fiscal incentives offered to investors, as well as reforming the excise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol. The mission added that further improvements in tax administration must be implemented to boost tax revenues.

On monetary policy, the IMF said it was "appropriate" that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) had moved "beyond jawboning"—or biased toward monetary tightening—given the sharp increase in consumer prices and the spillover effect. It said there were now "second-round" effects coming from the fuel and food-led inflation.

The central bank raised its key interest rate, its overnight borrowing rate, by 25 basis points early this month, the first monetary tightening measure in three years.

The inflation rate leaped the BSP's control, the IMF warned. It would complicate macroeconomic management.

When consumer prices rise is definitely also tends to create panic among consumers and producers alike, creating further upward inflationary pressures.

"Inflation is expected to remain close to double-digit levels in the coming months as the recent increases in food and fuel prices filter through to the CPI (consumer price index)," the IMF said.

CPI refers to the basket of goods and services consumed by a typical household. Inflation is measured based on the changes to this key index.

In the first five months, the inflation rate averaged 8.8 percent, overshooting the BSP's maximum target of 5 percent. In May the inflation rate hit a nine-year high of 9.8 percent.

For the whole of 2008, the BSP expects the inflation rate to average at 7.8 percent and for next year, at 4-6 percent.

Kidnapped prof wonders why their guide was not charged

By John S. Alquiza
Inquirer Mindanao

DAMBANGA CITY—JEAMEL "Wanting" Hiyare, the man rescued of delivering broadcaster-journalist Ces Drilon, her crew and peace advocate professor Gerardo Ermanio in their ties Hayyal captors, has so far not been charged with kidnapping.

In a phone interview Sunday, Ermanio said he was wondering why Hiyare was not included in the charges the police filed against 17 suspects in the kidnapping, led by Sultanate Mayor Abanes Imsul and his son, Haidee.

"He (Hiyare) was the one who made the arrangements, including the time and place, and left us in the hands of our captors," Ermanio said.

He said Hiyare was closely associated with the military as an "asset."

"The crime committed here is kidnapping and not missing link, I guess, is at large, and some people would like to take him and I am hoping Hiyare will speak the truth to clear all these issues," Ermanio said.

He said he learned that Hiyare had been turned over to the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Western Mindanao for investigation.

"I am aware there are some people who are working for his release. I hope he is still with the CIDG," Ermanio, a Western Mindanao University professor, said.

Ermanio, however, refused to reveal the identities of the "influential people" who were allegedly working for Hiyare's release.

Hiyare is a kagawad at Barangay Sandiak village in Patikul, Sulu. He is known to the community as a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front, and as a military asset in connection with the surrender of former MNLF combatants to the 3rd Marine Brigade.

Brig. Gen. Juanito Sabban, 3rd MB commander, has denied Hiyare was a military asset.

But no one could point out Hiyare's link to Imsul, who had negotiated the release of the captives but is now accused of playing a part in the kidnapping.

What was clear to him, Ermanio said, was that Hiyare, Abi Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron and Imsul were all former MNLF members.

"Hiyare is related to Radullan, and most of his relatives are sure with the latter, but Hiyare and Imsul are not related," he said.

Ermanio earlier said Sahiron's men were behind their abduction.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said they had not "established the link between Hiyare and Imsul in the kidnapping and their relationship."

"I haven't read the CIDG report on Hiyare. So far as I know, this guy is still with the CIDG Western Mindanao," Goltiao said.

Chief Supt. Jose Pante, head of the CIDG in Western Mindanao, confirmed that Hiyare was still in their "protective custody."

"But he is not saying anything. Ayaw niyang magsalita [He doesn't want to talk]," Pante said.

Goltiao said Hiyare remained a suspect. "The law is still being held for further investigation, unless we can clear the suspects."

Senior Supt. Jolasteiro Esmin, then police chief, also said Hiyare was still a suspect in the kidnapping.

"Hindi ko kabisado ang detalye ni Mayor Ces, dahil siya lang makakapagsabi ng talaga: si Hiyare ba kidnapping? Hindi ba release the driver of Madame Ces because he is the only one who can tell us Hiyare's role in the kidnapping]," Esmin said, referring to Mayana Hashim, the driver hired by Drilon's group to drive them when they were abducted in Barangay Asbi, Jolo's Indanan town on June 6.

Hashim said it was Hiyare who led Drilon's group to the kidnappers in a forested area in Indanan and retrieved them four hours later.

MONDAY
JUNE 21, 1999

Negotiators argued over bundles, bills

IT CAME DOWN TO A QUESTION OF TRUST

One negotiator wanted to count the ransom by bundle while another wanted to count each bill.

To ensure it was counted right either way, Subic Vice Gov. Lanly Anne Salvahelia, who had negotiated for the captives, said she had one of her aides take pictures of the money that was handed over by the brother of kidnapped broadcast journalist Ces Drilon.

She said it was also to make clear the 15 million had been raised even to Abayao Abusaya Basit and his son Hatibe, who known as Jun, who were negotiating with the kidnappers.

The bungle arose later tagged by the Philippine National Police as principals in the abduction of Drilon, her sister Jimmy Encarnacion and Angelo Valderama and Mindanao State University professor Octavio Dinampo.

Initially Salvahelia said, Jun began counting each bill, in the P500 bundles first, then the P1,000 bundles. Somehow he lost count and started again. Exasperated, Salvahelia said she told him to count it by bundle but she got a blank stare instead. It was at this point that she called Jun "stupid."

But Jun insisted on counting the money bit-wing bill by bill.

At one point, according to Salvahelia, Jun convinced that the money he was counting could be fake. At this, Salvahelia became furious and told him to examine each bill for as long as he wanted.

"Take a good look to see if they're fake. From the time of your entry, you appear to be accusing me of something. Count it till you want," Salvahelia said she told him in Filipino.

After 10 minutes, Jun finished counting and declared the total to be P5 million, she said.

She said she did not know where the allegation the female produced P3 million.

Arlyn dela Cruz, contributor

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GMA fumes: Why was ship …

Transcript

on shoal sank, she turned.

Upon landing in San Francisco yesterday, Ms Arroyo was on the phone talking to civil defense and Coast Guard authorities and demanding to know since the MV Princess of the Stars that hosted over and went under off Sibuyan Island in Romblon.

"Why did you allow it to sail and why was there no ample warning?" she asked during a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Center, which was broadcast live on nationwide radio. "I want answers," she said.

The NDCC was convened yesterday morning at the Department of National Defense and was presided over by Vice President Noli de Castro and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Avelino Razon Jr. said that before the President departed, she had ordered him to mobilize operation plan "Sagip" (Rescue), the PNP disaster management plan. He said he complied immediately, alerting all PNP units nationwide.

During the teleconference, a visibly irked Ms Arroyo repeatedly demanded to know from Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo when the Coast Guard issued the warning to all vessels not to sail.

"Where? Where did you issue the warning? Where did you issue the warning to all vessels?" Ms Arroyo, voice raised, asked the official. She asked "when" at least six times while the official tried to explain that the ill-fated vessel did not violate the guidelines when it left port.

"They could have sought shelter in Batangas port," Ms Arroyo said.

Irked

Press Secretary Jesse Robredo said Ms Arroyo was irked.

"She was also concerned about the fact that why did the vessel leave port in spite of an ongoing situation and no other ship, practically is encouraged the Coast Guard officer why these ships were being sent [here], what time the series of vessels not to go out of port was issued, what time the vessel actually left, so she was very very concerned about that particular issue," Robredo said.

He said Ms Arroyo ordered immediate rescue and recovery operations.

'She's in driver's seat'

"She even instructed others to go … she even directed that just go there and start looking there in that area. She is focused and concerned," Robredo said.

He said the President also ordered the setting up of a logistics center in Cebu to be nearer the areas ravaged by Typhoon, as well as in Villamor Air Base.

She ordered the Department of Agriculture to give prompt assistance to affected families.

Ms Arroyo was to spend the night in San Francisco before plunging into her busy schedule that includes a daylong visit to Fresno, part of the Central Valley where some 19,000 Filipino-Americans live.

She is set to visit Filipino health care professionals at the Community Regional Medical Center, hear Mass at the International Convention Center, and deliver a speech in the Filipino community there before flying to Washington for a two-hour meeting with US President George W. Bush at the White House on June 24.

Asked if Ms Arroyo regretted pushing through with her third US trip despite the typhoon, Durano said "there is no indication of it at all."

He said Ms Arroyo was confident that the government machinery was responding adequately. "She is on top of the situation … [she] is in the driver's seat in spite of being far away from them."

Durano said that as soon as Ms Arroyo landed, she convened the NDCC teleconference from her presidential suite at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Francisco.

She told NDCC officials she would hold another briefing with them at 1 p.m. here, or 4 a.m. Monday in Manila, before she departs for Washington.

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Sanctions sought vs posing pols

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO has asked the Commission on Elections to crack down on politicians—mostly online senators likely to run for president in 2010—who she said were already campaigning under the guise of making commercial endorsements.

In a 19-page petition filed with the Comelec on Saturday, Santiago asked the poll body to declare illegal any political advertising in the form of commercial and other endorsements before the start of the official campaign period.

Santiago also asked the Comelec to issue a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against politicians, advertising firms and TV stations engaged in premature campaigning.

Among those likely to be affected are Senate President Manny Villar and incumbent Mar Roxas, Loren Legarda, Panfilo Lacson and Vicente Sotto III.

They could be often seen in ads promoting products and causes.

"Until the Comelec makes a categorical interpretation of the Election Code, the rich and powerful candidate will enjoy an unfair advantage over the poor candidate. It is a mockery of the law to start campaigning two years before the 2010 elections," Santiago said in a statement.

Enrollees maintained that no election rule had been violated because no one had yet registered as a candidate for 2010. He also noted that most of the ads solicited votes.

(d) Cohen on pg. A6

In US, GMA comes to Miriam's rescue

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SAN FRANCISCO (via PLDT)—Senate President Pro Tem Miriam Defensor-Santiago is the latest Filipino to climb a seat on the International Court of Justice.

Winning a seat outside Santiago only the second Filipino after Justice Cesar Bengzon in 1967 to sit in the 15-member ICJ, the Geneva-based principal judicial organ of the United Nations tasked with settling legal disputes and giving legal opinions on conflicts between states.

After her meetings with US President George W. Bush and rival presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama in Washington D.C., Ms Arroyo will travel to New York on June 25 for other meetings and to host a reception for permanent representatives to the UN, who will be voting for the justices.

"Definitely we have votes but they are not yet [enough], ideally we say, we don't have the position in the bag. That's why we are trying to talk to those [UN member states] ... some more," said Philippine External Secretary Santiago in the latter's bid to climb a seat on the International Court of Justice.

Winning a seat outside Santiago only the second Filipino after Justice Cesar Bengzon in 1967 to sit in the 15-member ICJ, the Geneva-based principal judicial organ of the United Nations tasked with settling legal disputes and giving legal opinions on conflicts between states.

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"Definitely we have votes but they are not yet [enough], ideally we say, we don't have the position in the bag. That's why we are trying to talk to those [UN member states] ... some more," said Philippine External Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Romulo, who is concurrent adviser on presidential overseas trips, told reporters covering Ms Arroyo's 10-day US visit she would be making a personal pitch for Santiago during the reception on June 26.

Asked about Santiago's chances, Deputy said: "It's difficult to say because usually when you talk to a whole lot of the membership of the UN, sometimes of course, they will vote but (strive one more) unless they say it is settled and for a QPQ (quid pro quo)."

Santiago, a former trial court judge and considered expert on international and constitutional law, is bidding to clinch one of the three Asian seats on the ICJ that will be vacated with the end of Ozaki's term in 2009.

A total of five seats are up for election aside from Asia's, to wit: Due each for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and two for Western Europe and other members.

Correction

IN THE JUNE 13 ISSUE, a Business article on Page B2-3—"Pinoys staffed Continental advertising"—misstated that Brand Solutions, an advertising agency in Cambodia, is owned by Robert Pollin, a Filipino. Pollin is a creative director at Mekong Orchid Last. Brand Solutions is purely owned by Buddy Haskell, who is also Filipino.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Philippine Daily Inquirer 5th floor, Chino Roces Avenue corner Riverside Drive, Makati City, fax line 897-1-55-90; e-mail address: dgmail@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: [illegible] or fax No. 897-1-725-50. Attn: The Publisher. Telephone number is 897-0808 loc.[illegible].

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Is the sky falling? Americans think so

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nation and health care limbo on unaffordable. Were without end rage in Iraq and Afghanistan. So is the fight against terrorism.

The can-do, pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps approach embedded in the American psyche is under assault. Binding it is a deep pessimissism that's crippling many of America's stately instincts that destiny can be commanded with shoot courage and perseverance.

The sense of helplessness is even reflected in this year's presidential election, as each successive office a sense of order—and hope. Strike McCain promises are experienced based in a frightening time. Barack Obama promises delight and slow change—and I'm starting sounds believe his audacious tuition, "Yes, we can."

Even so, a battered American public seems discouraged by the onslaught of daunting things. A new Associated Press-Ipsos poll says only a hand-scraping 17 percent believe the country is moving in the right direction, the lowest reading since the survey began in 2003.

A new ABC News-Washington Post survey put that figure at 14 percent, tying a record low in more than three decades of taking soundings on the national mood.

World gone haywire

"It is pretty scary," says Charles Postal, 64, a retired computer manager in Rochester, Minnesota. "People are doing things are going to get larger, and they haven't been. And then you go hide in your basement because tornadoes are coming through. If you think about things, you have very little power to make a change."

Abroad, the worst natural disasters doesn't anything affecting the United States...more than 69,000 people dead in the earthquake in China; 50,000 dead and 58,000 missing from the cyclone in Burma [Myanmar].

Americans need no more than check the weather, look in their mailbox or turn on the news for their daily reality check on a world gone haywire.

Florida engulf Midwestern river towns, washing away livelihoods and communities. Is it global warming, the gradual degradation of an entire planet's weather that man seems powerless to stop, or just a brutal-ish late spring deluge?

Food scarcity

It hardly counts to those in the path. Just as the people of New Orleans who survived the horrific Hurricane "Katrina" and now live in a major American city where 3,000 days later, entire neighborhoods remain abandoned, a national embarrassment that evokes disbelief from visitors.

Food is becoming scarcer and more expensive on a worldwide scale, due to increased consumption to growing countries like China and India and rising fuel costs.

That can do solution to energy needs...turning corn into fuel—is sapping fields of plenty once devoted to crops that people need to eat. Shortages have sparked riots in countries dotting the globe. In the United States, the prices stylish and some-more-nutrient-dense vegetables have soared.

Residents of the US capital and its suburbs experience long periods of enforced periods at once thunderstorms—not earthquakes or terrorist bombings—rumble through.

In California, leaders warn people to use less water in the unrelenting drought.

No Escape

Bleak to go away from it all? The weak US dollar makes travel abroad forbiddingly expensive. To add insult to injury, some airlines now charge to check luggage.

Want to escape on the couch? A writers' strike halted favorite TV shows for half a season. And that newspaper on the table may soon be a relic of the Internet age. Just as video stores are falling by the wayside as people get their movies online or in the mail.

But there's always sports, right?

The shootings seem to be coming [illegible] too.

Baseball stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens stand accused of enhancing their bonuses with drugs. Basketball referees are suspected of cheating.

Not the first time

Stay tuned for less than pristine tales from the drug-riddled Tour de France and what known when from the Summer Olympics.

It's not the first time Americans have felt a loss of control.

Historic signs, the three-novel author whose heroes overcame adversity to gain riches and fame, played in similar anxieties when the United States was becoming an industrial society in the late 1800s.

American University historian Allan J. Lichtman notes that the United States has endured comparable periods and worse, including the economic stagflation and two hostage crisis of 1980, the threat War, and the hysterical fears for domestic communism in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and the Depression of the 1930s.

Change in ruling party

"All those periods were followed by much more optimistic periods in which the American people had their confidence restored," Lichtman says. "Of course, that doesn't mean it will happen again."

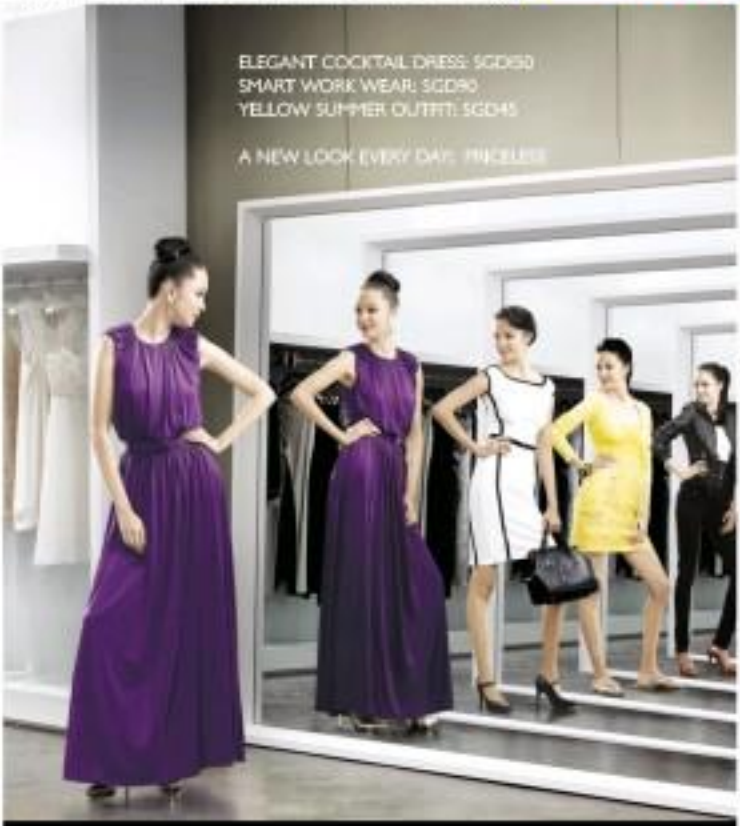
Each period was also followed by a change in the party controlling the White House.

This period has seen intense interest in the presidential primaries, especially the Democrats' five-month duel between Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Records were shattered by voters showing up in polling places, yearning for a voice in who will next guide the country as it confronts the unresolved. Ible.

Never mind that their views of their current leaders are near rock bottom, reflecting a frustration with Washington's inability to solve anything. President George W. Bush barely gets the approval of three in 10 people, and it is even worse for the Democrats-led Congress.

Why the vulnerability? After all, this is the 21st century, not a more primitive past when little in life was assured. Surely people know how to fix problems now.

Maybe. And maybe this is what the 21st century will be about...a great unraveling of some things long taken for granted. AP



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 23, 2008
12th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 Kt 17:5-8, 13b-15a, 18
Gospel: Mt 7:1-5

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not judge and you will not be judged. In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and the measure you use for others will be used for you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' so long as that plank is in your own? Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Commentary

The power of judgment is one that we use every day. Making prudential judgments about the circumstances of our lives and the people with whom we work and live is absolutely necessary to our survival. While we can and should judge the actions of others, we must avoid the temptation to judge the state of that person's soul. Only God can do that. God alone can see what is secret.

Meanwhile, let us pray for those whose actions we judge to be misguided. Let us pray for their ongoing conversion of heart, and let us pray that the Lord will be merciful when our day of judgment comes.

Glenn Constantino Rombaoa, SJ, a Jesuit priest of Cebu, Ateneo, Quezon City, Philippines, received his doctorate in Sacred Theology (Dr. Theol.) at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany. He is currently the editor of Philippine Province's online publication, Kerygma. http://www.kerygma.com.ph/Default.Aspx?pageid=1 [http://www.kerygma.com.ph/Default.Aspx?pageid=1] He is also the Chairman of Campus Ministries in the Philippines and a Campus Missionary in the Philippines. His e-mail address is: [illegible] Postal: [illegible] Tel. E-mail: [illegible]@yahoo.com.ph [illegible]@gmail.com

Flood victims rescued by pals on jet skis

From page A1

this city and got on their jet skis to rescue people stranded on rooftops and tree branches.

Typhoon "Frank" spawned floodwaters in most parts of the country, forcing people to seek higher ground.

"This is our first time to do this. We just wanted to help," Mejico told the Inquirer.

Ten of them, all members of the Hobie Waverunner Association, met at around 11 a.m. on a war amid windy Saturday after hearing calls for the owners of rubber boats and jet skis to help owners outdoors trapped on rooftops.

Rising floodwaters

The association members are all professionals and businessmen. Mejico is publisher of the community newspaper The News Today and owner of Mabuhay Digital Printing Press.

They loaded their jet skis on trailers attached to their vehicles and proceeded to the flooded areas in Zone 1District at around 2 p.m.

Six members were deployed to an area near Barangay Tabuyuhan, while four others proceeded to the Lodioco subdivision area.

Water everywhere

They encountered strong currents as they maneuvered their skis past floating debris and stranded vehicles.

"There was water everywhere ... then there would be pockets of rooftops. Many of the victims were crying, pleading for us to rescue them," narrated Mejico.

He said he and his friend in Iloilo even able to reach three victims trapped on the rooftop of a house near the Angelicum School.

Estrella rode with Mejico and assisted the victims in getting onto Mejico's 215-horsepower jet ski. They were able to evacuate two women, brought them to safety and then returned for their main companions.

Strong currents

Mejico said he would not recommend the nature of the people next time many they went after tomorrow.

"It was confusing. There were many others who needed help but we couldn't reach them," he said.

After three hours, Mejico and his group decided to call it a day because the current was getting stronger.

"We saw young lovers trying to reach the flooded areas and they were being swept away," he said.

Glad to help

One of their friends, Oliver Alimalla, fell off his jet ski and sought refuge on a rooftop where he was stranded until early yesterday.

"We were worried about him [but we couldn't do anything] because we have no experience in water rescue training," said Mejico, whose jet ski was badly scratched after repeatedly hitting structures and sharp objects in the water. His friend's skis were also damaged.

"We wanted to help more people, but we could only do so much. But it felt good being able to help," he said.

DepEd suspends classes in all levels

By Beverly T. Mahinidad

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) has suspended classes in all levels in Metro Manila, and the provinces of Cavite, Rizal, Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, La Union, Benguet, and Ilocos Norte.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus issued the advisory yesterday in view of widespread flooding in Metro Manila and provinces to South Luzon.

He said that based on the latest advisory from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the education department also considered the risks that the strong habagat winds might bring today.

Pagasa . . .

From page A1

But we were able to make the necessary adjustments and early warning," Cruz said.

He also said that Pagasa hoisted storm signals over the threatened regions in time to avert any accidents.

A high-pressure area in the northern part of the country was among the factors that made Frank's movement unpredictable, Cruz said.

Frank weakens

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, Pagasa advised that Frank was approaching Mindoro at 140 kph to 170 kph. About three hours later, the weather bureau spotted Frank penetrating the vicinity of Tablas Island, or just off the coast of Romblon.

It weakened to 120 kph as it neared northwest to Batangas on Saturday evening. At 10 p.m., the typhoon was 70 km south of Calapan in Oriental Mindoro.

Frank, the sixth typhoon to affect the country this year, reached Metro Manila at 5 a.m. yesterday. At 10 a.m., its eye was monitored hovering over Clark, Pampanga as it crossed Central Luzon toward Bulacan.

By then, it was packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kph near the center with gustiness of up to 150 kph.

Expected exit

"If it maintained its direction, which is northwest at 15 kph, we can expect that it will exit the western coast of Central Luzon tonight," weather specialist Cris Perez said.

He said the typhoon was expected to hit 120 km west of Laoag City today and 210 km west-northwest of Basco, Batanes, by Tuesday.

On Wednesday, it is expected to hit 80 km northwest of Tuguegarao.

Storm Signal No. 3 was hoisted over La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales and Pampanga as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, Aurora, northern Quezon, Bulacan, Bataan, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, Lubang Island and Metro Manila were placed under Storm Signal No. 2.

Signal No. 1 was raised over at Apayao, Cagayan, Kalinga, Ilocos, the rest of Quezon province, Polillo Island, Marinduque and Mindoro.

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Ex-gov't execs to unmask the unqualified

By Norman Bordadora

THE FORMER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (FSGO) yesterday denounced in response to the coming weeks the individuals who benefited from President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged abuse of her prerogative to appoint officials to top positions in the bureaucracy.

In a statement, FSGO initially named serving Commissioners on Higher Education Ulziah Romulo Neri and Philippine Veterans Authority chief executive officer Hindi Lapid among the "unqualified" individuals appointed to sensitive posts.

"We, as former senior government officials, find it our responsibility to the public to call attention to the sources (disrespect for the civil service, and worse, the abuse of the presidential prerogative to appoint," the group said.

The statement listed former Civil Service Commissioner Chair Karina David, former presidential political adviser Cito Beltran and former PIA general manager Ninez Ruiz as reference persons.

"We wish to make it of record that in our estimation, as president, not even Ferdinand Marcos who ruled with authoritarian powers, has so abused the appointing power given by the Constitution and our laws," the FSGO said.

"We shall in the following weeks, detail as many instances and examples of the abuse and misuse of the presidential prerogative to appoint, and in the process show, how badly we the people are served, and how damaging these are to the institutions of governance," it added.

The group said that with only a "desire" before, the President is able to raise the appointment of "people of little competence and/or questionable integrity even if properly and formally, such person runs on the boards of these institutions."

The FSGO questioned the competence of Lapid, a former governor of Ifugao province, in helping handle the country's tourism operations and managing the billion-peso proceeds from the travel tax.

"The appointment, for instance, of Lapid shows clearly how the presidential prerogative to appoint is a clear outmatch to the needs of good governance," the FSGO said.

The group also questioned the appointment of Neri, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority to the CHED.

"The appointment of Romulo Neri, albeit acting, as chair of the Commission on Higher Education, willfully defies what is stated in the law creating it—that the appointee must possess an academic doctorate," the group said.

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NISSAN

AFP assures Ayala exec he's not being watched

By Lala B. Salamero

THE COURT OF APPEALS has dismissed the petition for mandamus and habeas data filed by Ayala Foundation executive Guillermo Luz after the military assured him he was not under surveillance in connection with an alleged plot to commit President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The appellate court noted that the Armed Forces of the Philippines had submitted a memorandum stating that none of the major services of the military had conducted surveillance or case building against Luz.

"The AFP also submitted a certification saying it did not look into or if alleged military surveillance on Luz.

The certifications were made in response to Luz's petition in which he asked the court to compel the military to disclose and then destroy any information it may have gathered about him in connection with an alleged plot to unseat the President in November 2007. He also asked the government to respect his "right to be left alone."

Because of the assurances by the military, Luz said he was "already at peace" and asked the appellate court to dismiss his petition for unjust and baseless data.

"In a consequence of the reasonableness of petitioner and validity of the acceptance of respondent [then Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes] Esperon, the issues in this case have been rendered moot and academic," said the appellate court's former 13th division.

Luz had sought the court's help after learning he had been tagged as a financier in destabilization moves against the government in a news report that cited intelligence sources in the military.

In his petition, Luz claimed he had been under surveillance since the Nov. 29, 2007, standoff at the Peninsula Manila hotel in Makati City where he was allegedly seen talking to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Catholic Bishop Ambo Lobregat.

Luz said he was not with Guingona or Lobregat during the siege and he was not involved in any moves to oust the President.

Because the military did not issue a public denial of his supplemental, Luz filed the petition for habeas data and appears in March 2008, claiming the military's alleged surveillance was an unjustified incursion on his right to privacy and security.

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Bidder takes SC plea back

A BIDDER THAT HAD wanted to acquire the multibillion-peso National Transmission Corp. (Transco) has withdrawn its petition in the Supreme Court questioning the bidding process in the privatization of the power grid operator.

In a June 11 motion, La Costa Development Corp. said it was no longer interested in the case and asked that it be terminated as an act to spare the court's time.

"Petitioner respectfully manifests that it has lost interest in prosecuting the instant petition. Petitioner is conveying desirous of moving on with its other business," it said.

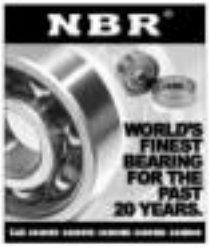
Earlier, La Costa failed to stop the bidding for Transco conducted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm), which is tasked to oversee the sale of Transco.

A Makati Regional Trial Court in November 2007 rejected La Costa's plea for a temporary restraining order against the privatization of Transco. La Costa then went after Psalm's disqualified it from the bidding for the government firm.

La Costa had alleged that Psalm and its president, Jose Ibazeta, had favored another group, the Monte Oro consortium affiliated with port operator Hydee Ramos to acquire Transco.

In the same month, a consortium that included Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp., Taiko on High Power Corp. and Chuan's Main Grid Corp. became the new consortium of Trustees with a $5.93 billion bid.

After failing to get a favorable ruling from the Makati RTC, La Costa went to the Supreme Court and filed the petition Ibazeta and Monte Oro Grid. Lella B. Salamero



DPWH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

BUILDING ON THE STRENGTH AND EXPERIENCE OF 110 YEARS OF BRIDGING PEOPLE AND PROGRESS

One hundred ten years ago, the Department of War and Public Works was created by President Emilio Aguinaldo to build the structures to defend against invaders, fortresses against our enemies.

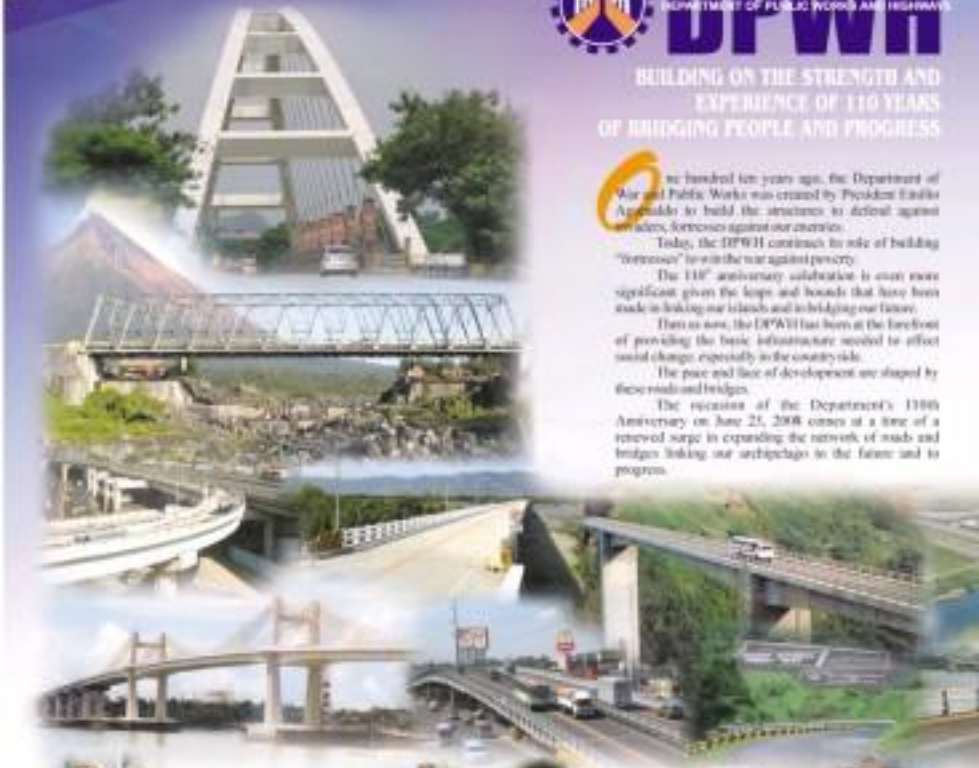
Today, the DPWH continues its role of building "fortresses" to win the war against poverty.

The 110th anniversary celebration is even more significant given the leaps and bounds that have been made in linking our islands and in bridging our future.

Then as now, the DPWH has been at the forefront of providing the basic infrastructure needed to effect social change, especially in the countryside.

The pace and face of development are shaped by these roads and bridges.

The occasion of the Department's 110th Anniversary on June 23, 2008 comes at a time of a renewed surge in expanding the network of roads and bridges linking our archipelago to the future and to progress.



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Lanao del Norte

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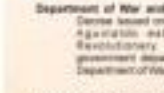
Barangay Bagong Silang
Gumayangan, Quezon

KARYNO WILFREDO PANTUNA, Engr.
San Isidro
Tagkawayan, Quezon

ADRIA and ADRIZ FAUSTINO
Grade School Pupils, Iloilo



GEOFFREY LAURENA
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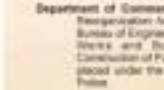
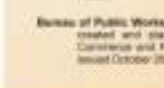


DALINDA JAVIDEZ
Cebu City



RONALDO S. LINGIG, teacher
and **WILVIN R. ROMERO**, student
San Juan Academy Inc., Sara, Iloilo

Historical Evolution

Department of War and Public Works - The Organic Decree issued on June 23, 1898 by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo establishing the Philippine Revolutionary Government created four government departments among which was the Department of War and Public Works.

Department of Commerce and Police - By virtue of Reorganization Act No. 22 and 258 in 1902, the Bureau of Engineering and Construction of Public Works and Bureau of Architecture and Construction of Public Buildings were created and placed under the Department of Commerce and Police.

Bureau of Public Works – Bureau of Public Works was created and placed under the Department of Commerce and Police by virtue of Act No. 1407 issued October 26, 1905.

Department of Commerce and Communications - To keep pace with further development in transportation and communications, the Department of Commerce and Police was transformed into the Department of Commerce and Communications under Reorganization Act No. 2666 of 1916.

Department of Public Works and Communications - The Department of Commerce and Communications was renamed the Department of Public Works and Communications by virtue of Act No. 4007 dated May1, 1931.

Reorganization of the Department of Public Works and Communications - During the inauguration of the Commonwealth Government on November 15, 1935, a reorganization of the Department of Public Works and Communications was undertaken. In 1941, at the outbreak of World War II, the DPWC and other government offices were practically abolished. Resuming its operation in 1946, the DPWC started with limited human resources, funds, materials and equipment. An office of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads was set up to cooperate with the Philippine Bureau of Public Works in implementing the highway program as authorized by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946.

Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications - Under Executive Order in 1951, the DPWC was again reconstituted to Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications (DPWTC) to include the Bureaus of Public Works, Roads, Telecommunications, Motor Vehicles Office, Irrigation Council, Flood Control Commission, Radio Control Board, National Transportation Board and Government Guarantee Committee.

110 YEARS

The Department not only celebrates but also commemorates the legacy of service and the record of success of the people who have made the DPWH what it is today.

The anniversary theme, "Building on the Strength and Experience of 110 Years of Bridging People and Progress," underscores the vast wealth of experience and depth of the strength as an institution and as a team.

The slogan "Tibay ng Serbisyo" captures the spirit of our commitment. The challenge is not only to serve but also to make our service pave the way for real progress in every community across our land. The real value of our work begins the moment the roads and bridges are opened up to serve people and communities.

RAMDAM ANG KAUNLARAN

Bureau of Public Highways – In relation to road and bridge construction and maintenance, the Bureau of Public Highways was created in 1964 by virtue of the Republic Act No. 1162 and placed under the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications.

Department of Public Highways – The former Bureau of Public Highways was expanded and restructured into the Department of Public Highways (DPH) by a more effective administration of the country's highway system through Administrative Order No. 2, dated July 1, 1974.

The Ministries – With the shift in the form of government, national agencies were reorganized from Departments to Ministries. In 1978, DPWTC became Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications (MPWTC) and DPWH became Ministry of Public Highways (MPH).

Ministry of Public Works – Under Executive Order No. 546 dated July 23, 1979, MPWTC was again restructured into two Ministries – the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC), integrating all functions and offices considered with public works functions and activities under the Ministry of Public Works.

Ministry of Public Works and Highways – Under Executive Order No. 710 dated July 27, 1981, the Ministries of Public Works and of Public Highways were merged for a more effective and systematic implementation of infrastructure projects.

Department of Public Works and Highways – By virtue of Executive Order No. 124 dated January 30, 1987, the agency was renamed as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 23 No. 199

OPINION

Proof of money

EDITORIAL

AND SO, IMMEDIATELY, IT HAS COME DOWN TO this: the sinful sorting out of minute details, of claims about money, so soon after ABS-CBN anchor-reporter Ces Drilon and the other kidnapping victims were released. Despite the many protestations of a no-ransom policy, the public could not have been surprised to learn that millions of pesos did exchange hands to secure the hostages' release. The Abu Sayyaf, in its previous or its current incarnation, understands only brute force or blood money.

It is something of a puzzle that the chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Jesus Versoza, has taken the lead in making the case against Indanan, Sulu Mayor Alvarez Izzajil. The charge is certainly sensational: the main negotiator is accused of masterminding the kidnapping of Drilon et al. This is a developing news story that many people will follow. But the first and subsequent announcements about the PNP's case against the Izzajil father and son could have been handled at a lower level. It would have strengthened the hand of Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, the chief of police of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. But Versoza chose to break the news; that the PNP chief's announcements invested the accusation with more credibility could not have been coincidental.

Is Razon's high-profile intervention a guarantee of the evidence against Izzajil? Or, to the contrary, proof that the evidence was weak and needed a credibility boost?

The PNP offers a photograph of Izzajil, together with Sulu Vice Gov. Lady Ann Tahil-Adih and others, counting ransom money, as part of the evidence. The best that can be said for the photo is that it establishes the fact of ransom money; it cannot be said to prove that Izzajil pocketed more of the ransom or that he had masterminded the kidnapping. Without disallowing for the possibility that Izzajil is guilty as charged, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Pimentel Jr. raised the same cautionary point about the photo: "That's not proof of complicity. When you're being used as negotiator, you must count the money that is being given to you as the people and the kidnappers sing home."

The Sulu chair of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, Tarrazen Tahtoh, has also argued that there is "something odd" about the photo. "That photo used as evidence speaks loudly the truth that it was taken before the release of [cameraman Angelo] Valderama, and during that period it was Vice Governor Adih[dih] who was the lead negotiator, not Mayor Izzajil," he told the Inquirer. The kidnappers, he said, had expected P5 million but received only P2 million. The implication is that, contrary to the PNP's claim that Izzajil set aside the P3 million for himself, it may have been Adih[dih] who pocketed the money.

To be sure, Tahtoh's own source is a party in interest: Izzajil's son Haider or Jun, whom the PNP has also accused of kidnapping. It is easy enough to declare what the hearsay may gain by shifting the burden of proof to Adih[dih], but we should not dismiss Tahtoh's testimony out of hand. It may be that the civil society advocate is being merely naïve; it may be that Adih[dih] was left out of the loop precisely because she insisted something odd in the arrangements. But the PNP had already erred in rushing to implicate Mindanao State University professor Octavio Dinampo, one of the kidnap victims, in the kidnapping; it should not rush to judgment yet again.

What the PNP needs to do is to follow the money. It must determine exactly how much was paid; whether the P15 million the kidnappers demanded after Valderama was released was in fact delivered (as reported by a top intelligence agent); and how much of it was actually paid; whether the P3 million from the first ransom payment has been wasted; whether the local economy has shown signs of unusual spending. But the PNP must also follow the tracks of the suspects wherever they will lead. Dinampo, for instance, believes that guide Jainuddy Bijuke played a pivotal role in their kidnapping. Goltiao confirms that Bijuke is still under police custody. Why wasn't he included in the PNP charge sheet? He hope his background as a military asset did not stop the police from throwing the book at him.

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2010 presidential campaign has already begun

IT'S STILL A YEAR AND A HALF TO 2010 BUT the presidential campaign has started, including the black propaganda. A source who is a presidential wannabe has unleashed his PR man to do a demolition job against Sen. Loren Legarda to pull her down from the prominent and solid niches of the people after the unwonted lofty ratings she received for broadcaster journalist Ces Drilon, her crew and their guide, Prof. Octavio Dinampo. The PR man has been spending, through text and rumors, that Ces' family is disappointed regarding Loren's role in the release of Ces. He even quoted Archbishop Edgardo Espiritu, Ces' uncle, saying bad things about Loren. It's the club mentality all over again.

Yesterday, Espiritu was interviewed by photo ace Alex Baluyut and denied all the quotes attributed to him. "She [Loren] allegedly worked hard in ensuring my niece's safe release," Espiritu said. "She doesn't deserve all those scathing remarks being thrown her way."

The ambassador also vehemently denied the charges made against Loren, saying that their family is more than grateful to the senator, adding that she here was the only one who provided them help in negotiating for the safe release of Ces and her group.

"Bagay nasty pinasasabi nyan. Anak ninuno nasty [She should be thanked, not criticized]," he said.

Yes, all the other presidential wannabes, including the senator I am referring to, did not lift a finger to help Ces and her group during their time of need. This senator knows that he is the richest legislator from down the past [to current income taxes? Still the fiasco of loans and favorites please reveal his untold personal income taxes!] but he did not offer a single penny for Ces' ransom. Only Loren helped by negotiating with the kidnappers.

Now that Ces is free and Loren is being hailed for her efforts, he is trying to spread black propaganda against his top rival. Can you trust a man like that to be President?

* * *

The Philippines has had its fair share of the Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) scandals involving the illegal takeover of the P12-billion Sta. Ana racetrack owned by the PRCI—with, ironically, the help of the Third Division of the Supreme Court.

Last week, this majority faction, using the SC's temporary restraining order (TRO), ratified a deal where the P12-billion race track was swapped for a P10-million shell company controlled by the same faction. The SC TRO prevented the enforcement of a Makati regional trial court order affirmed by the Court of Appeals, stopping the PRCI from holding a stockholders' meeting to ratify the deal.

But what is this controversial deal? And who are the majority stockholders?

The PRCI is controlled by the Hukayesun group Magnum Holdings Inc. led by Bishop-Thai businessman Surin Upathnon, and a Filipino group led by Santiago Cua Sr. and his two sons, formerly of the collapsed Pacific Bank. Filipino minority stockholders own 21 percent of PRCI.

Upathnon is currently being investigated by Bangkok authorities for allegedly manipulating the controversial takeover of Thailand's Shin Corp. by the giant Singaporean Temasek Holdings, which angered Thai PM people. The same media upheaval is taking over Shin Corp by Temasek is being used in the takeover of sour sour PRCI.

The Upathnon-backed faction of the PRCI board first acquired a P95-million stake in the pany called JTH Estates. Then it passed a board resolution swapping the P12-billion Sta. Ana racetrack for JTH Estates. The racetrack would be developed into shopping malls, residential condominiums and business offices. The majority PRCI members became the directors of JTH Estates, shelling out the remaining stockholders of PRCI.

The minority asked for copies of the swap deal and for the development plans, but the majority refused to give any information. Then the majority scheduled a stockholders' meeting to ratify the deal. The minority went to court to stop the meeting. The Makati RTC issued a TRO. The Upathnon-Cua faction appealed to the Court of Appeals which affirmed the RTC order. The majority faction went to the Supreme Court. In a decision penned by Justice Mariflor Punzalan Castillo, the Third Division issued its own TRO, stopping the CA and the RTC from enforcing their TROs, thus paving the way for the stockholders' meeting and ratification of the swap deal.

Another minority group led by the Prieto family went to the Makati RTC on another issue and got a second annulment TRO stopping the stockholders meeting which was ignored. The meeting pushed through and railroaded the ratification of the swap.

The Prieto group questioned the move by the Upathnon-Cua faction to transfer JTH Estates for close to P600 million which the Filipino said was "way over and beyond the value of JTH." The Prieto group also questioned a baffling scheme that apparently resulted an unknown PRCI stockholder who made P5.5 billion for an investment of only P66 million, allegedly at the expense of the corporation and its stockholders.

The Prieto group told the court that the PRCI board, at the behest of Cua, sold 20-(2) percent of its JTH shares shares to undisclosed stockholders at P6.80 and P6.00 per share. These shares, however, were acquired by the PRCI at P10.75 per share. Who is this favored stockholder given such a bargain price?

That sale also caused the dilution of its control over the holding company. It closed from 98.19 percent to 81.87 percent. The share of the minority stockholder, on the other hand, went up to 31.45 percent.

After the sale, the Upathnon-Cua faction pushed the controversial swap. And thanks to the Chico-Nazario 3RD, it was ratified last week.

Bloody murder

THERE'S THE RUB

GERVASIO AL QUARTO

imagination to understand the poor as it does to understand the rich. Its focus frequently is intensely applied to, "The rich are different from you and me," F.S. said, "The poor are different from you and me." Nowadays, "poor" is apt to be even more amusing, you only have to go to a drama series to see amusing. How people are able to subsist in those conditions suggests the skills of a contortionist.

Having said this, however, I can only say in response to the futile defense of GMOs that, first, he and his boss should be so lucky, SOB or not. Two things are patently wrong unlikely.

The first most everyone has already pointed out. "It's all for those," Inter Bonus says, a sentiment echoed by the other scientists, some of them colleagues. It's not for the rich, says Inter Bonus, it's for the poor, which government apologists can always defend to death as benevolent rather than dole-out, the latter a term of opprobrium. It's needed, say pro-dole-out, and even insults the word "dole-out." Unlike the correct subsidies for the poor, which anyone, apologist or not, can defend to death as absolutely necessary to favorable life to the flying, the subsidies for the rich, to wit, to your property, and even insults the word "pillage."

We want to give subsidies to the poor, and ones that can truly be put to productive use, let's give them to our farmers. We don't have any poorer in this country—there isn't for today subsidies to even poorer farmers, with "poor"—and we don't have any more productive people in this country, or potentially so. The farmers are the only ones who can feed us out of impending hunger. But whatever we do, enough of giving subsidies to even poorer folk, some as scientists, congressmen, generals, bishops and judges.

Anything that goes to them isn't just bad policy, it's bloody murder.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 is the country's busiest airport, handling 22 million passengers in 2009. It is also the most congested, with 35 aircraft movements per hour, way above the recommended 24 per hour. Yet the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has allowed the opening of a new airport, Clark International Airport, which is 80 kilometers away from Manila. Clark is not ready to receive passengers, and will not be ready for at least two years. Why is the DOTC doing this? Why is it spending billions of pesos to build a new airport when it should be spending billions to improve NAIA?

Read more about it in Friday's Inquirer.

The arithmetic of the CA

THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS is presented by the Constitution series as[illegible] of composition. The Commission consists of "the President of the Senate, as ex-officio Chairman, twelve Senators and twelve Members of the House of Representatives, elected by each House on the basis of proportional representation from the political parties and parties or organizations registered under the party-list system represented therein." With the chairman, therefore, the total complement is 25, thus making it easier to allow for representation of most parties.

The arithmetic involved in the formation of the Commission on Appointments is not necessarily complex. Out of 12 members, Chavit Singson, in 1998, when a solitary member of the political party Lakas sitting in Congress claimed a right to membership in the Commission. Although she was the sole member in her party, her claim on a seat in the Commission was supported by many members. When the Court was asked to affirm her claim to one of the 12 seats allotted to members of the House, the Court's answer was simple arithmetic.

The basis for the membership of the House of Representatives then was 202, so he entitled to a seat in the Commission a party must have had 8.3 members in the House or 6.6 percent of the total membership. Lakas was obviously short of the required number even if the claimant had the support of members not belonging to her party.

Neither Lakas nor Singson had a right to representation in the Senate contingent in the Commission. The numerical elements of 2002 had yielded 11 LDP winners, 5 NPC, 3 Lakas-NUCD, and 1 LP-PDP-Laban. On the basis of the arithmetic of proportional representation, therefore, the Senate contingent in the Commission would consist of 5 LDP, 2 NPC, 1 Lakas, and 1 LP-PDP-Laban. The Senate, however, unwilling to be literally bolshevist, put in 6 LDPs by rounding up 5.5. 2 NPC by ignoring .5, 1 Lakas also by ignoring .5, and 1 LP-PDP-Laban by rounding up .5 to 1. Thus the commission[illegible]

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

rounding up .5 to 1. Thus the commission of The Court ruled that rounding up .5 to 1 and .5 to 1 was unconstitutional because it deprived Lakas and NPC of 1 each. Not until the holders of 3 seats, either belonging to the same party, form a party for purposes of obtaining 1 seat in the Commission. Thus, under the Court's arithmetic, the result would be a total of only 11 members. But the Court ruled that a full complement of 12 was not mandatory.

The basis for composition of the Commission on Appointments is proportional to the size of the political parties and organizations in Congress, probably because[illegible] can be necessary in order to reflect changes in the proportion within Congress. The 2004 elections emphasized that. The 1998 case, however, mainly was preparatory, for the changes in the political complexion of the House must be permanent and not temporary in character. "In other words," the Court said, "a shifting of votes in a given case, arising from an independent or a mere ad hoc temporary nature ... does not suffice to authorize a reorganization of the membership of the Commission for said house. Otherwise, the Commission on Appointments may have to be reorganized as often as every shift from one party to another by one vote happens." Thus the Court of Constitution could not have intended to thus place a constitutional organ, like the Commission on Appointments, at the mercy of each House of Congress." The Court also added, that "in order that the members of the Commission would properly discharge their duties as such, it [was] necessary that their tenure therein be provided with a certain measure of stability to insure the maximum[illegible]

I suppose that Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and her lawyers had read up on the subject and for this reason she probably took confidence that the stands on solid footing in her challenge to the composition of the Commission on Appointments. However, there is, there are a number of things that should be noted about the earlier decisions on the subject.

In the first place, the earlier challenges in the Commission on Appointments were filed by members of the legislature who had been denied membership in the Commission. Thus the claimants were aggrieved parties. Senator Estrada[illegible] was, it is normal member of the CA. Her main grievance seems to be that she had been unable to have her way even if the claims that what she is complaining is not the integrity of the Commission and of the Commission of which she is a member. The Court will have to decide whether this is reason enough for judicial power to intervene.

Secondly, the initial formation of the Commission on Appointments is the function of Congress. Under the 1987 Constitution, the appointments had first sought relief from the respective Houses responsible for determining who should be in the CA but had failed to obtain relief. Should the Court thus avoid[illegible] such as congress and, therefore, not[illegible] Or should the Court then avoid the

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Inquirer letters bring 'fame' to retired writer

I HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INQUIRER, the No. 1 newspaper in the country, I would not have been known to numerous people and government officials.

A text mesgr letter (incorrect, b/c I'd not caused a bare inclosure of the Development Bank of the Philippines "Negligent 1980 forgot to forward daughter's remittance" prompted us bec than 2 MP president Reynaldo G. Dayrit to send his senior assistant, vice president Marlando L. Mamaquin, together with Rosalio A. Balmaceda, head of the DBP East branch, to see me and apologize for the inconvenience caused by the failure of the bank to promptly forward an P12,000 remittance from our daughter Mary Ann E. Primo Manzano to us. The money was meant to buy maintenance medicine for her parents.

Another letter, titled "COA should follow DAO's lead" (Inquirer, 11/21/97), which opposed unlimited cash advances of (particular) employees in this province, prompted the regional director of the Commission on Audit in Legaspi City to order the provincial treasurer of Camarines Norte to conduct an investigation and furnish me a copy of the report. It was ridiculous that the provincial treasurer furnished me copies of the "aging report" on cash advances—a report routinely prepared every year.

But another one, titled "Hey the Andy guy's retiring," published in the Feb. 6, 2000 issue of the Inquirer, prompted a fellow Bicolano, PNP president Senador Cabanos, to enlist me as honorary member of the prestigious Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), an association composed of retirees.

As a Phalli Nat 2 guerrilla veteran myself, however, a letter of mine titled "A 'will' to be proud of" (Inquirer, 4/11/97) moved the Building Bureau of Batasan to send me a pen card with the picture of a well put up to Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac, honoring some 32,200 soldiers who died in the battle of Bataan against the formidable Japanese imperial army. The will is a main testimony to their heroism. My first cousin Bernardo Abaya Vale was among those who died in defense of freedom, democracy and loved ones. The letter may have killed me from obscurity but I never did so humbled.

I was even more humbled by the finance minister of Juan Encarnacion (a civil "do but still writing Dear Editor letters" (Inquirer, 9/4/97), which brought me fame in my adopted province of Camarines Norte.

—JOSE REBELLO G. PETILLA SR., JP Rizal Street, Barangay Camambugan, Bnd., Camarines Norte 4600

LETTERS

All hers to spend without accounting

THE PAY PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is expanding the people's economy, one would think it's all hers to spend any way she wants. Administration officials say that the billions of pesos she's been doling out as subsidies come from a surplus of BIR collections and that she is just returning to the people money that came from them. If that is so, why not get rid of that accursed BIR, thereby reducing more dramatically the price of commodities? The funny thing is, though she cannot guess for each example, can the whole amount of the subsidies and the subsidized people don't seem to give a hoot! And by the manner in which this administration has been dishing out funds for "fertilizer" (again) to "assure rice sufficiency," she is tempted to ask is Jun-Jun Binhan back already?

By the Aeropa (Supreme Court's unabridged doctrine of "executive privilege," there will be no accounting for these public funds. Are Constitutions mandates left dissidents and Congressmen Pray, tell me again, that we are enshrining that piece of paper for?

—EZZIE L. VILLEGAS, Esq.
09164981@yahoo.com

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Across the NATION

Zambales gov demands safety measures at Hanjin

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ZAMBALES GOV. AMOR DELOSO asked the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority not to lift the cease-and-desist order on the construction arm of a Korean shipbuilding firm until safety measures and equipment are enforced and installed at the shipyard in Subic town.

In a telephone interview on Sunday, Deloso said he also demanded a full inspection of the construction and shipbuilding arm of Hanjin Heavy Industries & Construction Philippines Inc. by appropriate government agencies to verify the company's claims that it was doing everything to avoid accidents and deaths among its workers.

Deloso said "not less than 27 deaths" had occurred at the yard due to accidents or malaria since construction started there in late 2006.

Some 8,000 workers are involved in the construction of the shipyard while 8,000 more are employed in shipbuilding work, HHIC-Philippines general manager Pyeong Jong Yu told the business on Saturday.

He said he could "not correctly remember" the number of deaths among workers.

The SBMA on Friday night issued the CDO, valid to effective for seven days, against Hanjin Construction Corp. Ltd., Hanjin's Asia- Pacific and other members of the construction arm a Hanjin Heavy Industries & Construction). SBMA faxed a copy of the CDO to HCCL on Friday night and served it to the company on Saturday morning.

The CDO was issued after a construction worker was killed on Friday afternoon when a steel frame toppled by strong winds hit him. Four others were hurt in the accident.

Deloso said aside from government agencies, the Korean company should also allow him, members of the provincial board and provincial environment and safety officers to inspect the shipyard.

He also wants government and private safety engineers to certify the safety of Hanjin's work site.

"The problem with Hanjin is that it is monolithic. All of supposed-to-be Cliney don't allow outsiders to enter their facility). They are very arrogant," Deloso said.

The governor was referring to three instances when he or other provincial officials were prevented from entering Hanjin's premises to confirm reports that the firm "demolished mountains" and "reclaimed [portions of the sea]."

"I request [SBMA Administrator Armand] Arreza's issuance of a CDO. While the lifting of that is not within my jurisdiction, I believe it is in the best interest of Filipino workers, most of whom are from Zambales, that the CDO is not lifted until all conditions are met. The safety of Filipino workers must be SBMA's primary interest," Deloso, a lawyer, said.

SBMA, he said, must "not compromise the lives of workers over monetary value do not follow the government's safety laws."

He cited the example of the American Energy System, the operator of the Masinloc Coal-Fired Thermal Plant in Masinloc, Zambales. The firm immediately fired a worker when he did not wear a hard hat within the 30-minute safety time, he said.

"Luck or due discipline. That's not done in Hanjin," Deloso said.

Arreza said a team from the SBMA and Department of Labor and Employment conducted a "comprehensive review" of occupational health and safety practices at Hanjin on April 10 and 26.

On Saturday, a team inspected the site to check on the recommendations given in April.

"Hanjin will be reopened once there is substantial compliance by it and its subcontractors," Arreza told the business.

Arreza said the CDO is "ineffable until we see compliance." Timothy Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon

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Villagers score anti-coal nun

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—VILLAGERS ARE RAISING hell against a nun here for allegedly threatening them with the "wrath of hell" for supporting a proposed coal-fired power plant in this city.

Some residents and officials of Barangay Bgicao in La Paz District on Friday charged in the Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (CSCJ) in Quezon City the calling by Sr. Estrella Gan of residents' names and for threatening that they will go to hell for supporting a proposed coal-fired plant project in their village.

The villagers demanded a public apology from Gan, a staunch environmental advocate and a member of the Daughters of Charity which runs the school.

"We felt insulted and we did not expect to hear this from a person of the cloth," said village chief Ernie Rosit in a telephone interview.

Gan allegedly called the residents supporting the coal plant project "mangis [stupid]" and said that they "will go to hell" for it.

But Gan, who is in charge of the school's organic farm project, denied the allegations saying her statements were "distorted and taken out of context."

She said she was explaining to the residents the harmful effects of coal plants, especially the emission of lead, mercury and other toxic chemicals.

"I told them that these toxic substances will harm babies inside their mother's wombs and will affect their brain and intelligence. I did not call them 'mangis' because they are in favor of the coal plant. What I said was that they will become stupid if they will be contaminated by the toxic emissions from coal plants," Gan said in a telephone interview.

She also denied that she threatened the villagers that they will go to hell if they support the project.

"I said that the negative consequences of our decisions have moral implications. And we will pay for these in hell," she said.

The nun was with a group of anti-coal plant advocates who were blocked by police and barangay officials from reaching a protest camp of the international environmental group Greenpeace at the shores of Barangay Bgicao last Saturday.

As the camp's owner signed by around 200 residents and barangay officials, they called Gan's alleged actions as "seditious" and "insults of reckless disregard for decency and blatant display of ill manners."

A spokesperson of the archdiocese said Lagdameo will look into the complaints.

Jasper Inventor, Climate and Energy Campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said the protest against Gan "is but another ploy to protect the interests of coal proponents."

"Since facts statement was taken out of context and used to agitate personal resentments/emotions," Inventor said in a text message.

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Iloilo losing forests to corn plantations

By David Isaac Siray
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO—CORN PRODUCTION IS getting lucrative. A number of Ilonggos have started engaging in this business but so the downturn of the province's forested areas.

The province's remaining forests, especially those in northern Iloilo, are being cleared for the planting of corn, said the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro).

Penro is assessing forested lands in northern Iloilo damaged by corn farmers, and forest management specialist Antonio Lavosa Jr.

The Community Environment and Natural Resource Office (Cenro) of the municipality of Sara recently informed Penro of the continued transformation of timberland areas for corn production.

Erosion reveals, valve heads the Cenro in Sara, said this has caused the devastation of forested areas in several communities.

Penro's Valente Tinimbo has also reported to Gov. Niel Tupas Jr. that this "economic trend" resulting to the destruction of northern Iloilo's forest resources.

"Corn production has become an attractive investment ... due to its high market demand as a feed material and for ethanol," Tinimbo told Tupas.

Arevalo said his office has started taking steps to address this concern, one of which is information dissemination in several villages of Sara and the adjacent towns of San Dionisio, Batad, Estancia and Lemery, emphasizing the importance of conserving and protecting forests or timberlands.

But aside from forested areas, private lands are also affected by the upsurge in corn plantations.

Arevalo said even private lands are being converted into corn plantations, resulting in rapid soil erosion.

Larry Saelendan, Department of Agriculture regional director, said northern Iloilo is considered as the "corn belt of Panay." Corn production in this area is widespread which expands to the adjacent provinces of Capiz.

"Farmers are using hybrid seeds which produce a minimum yield of four metric tons per hectare," Saelendan told the Inquirer in a phone interview Thursday.

Typhoid fever downs 48 in Leyte village

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE REGIONAL OFFICE of the Department of Health in Eastern Visayas reported that about 48 persons have been afflicted with typhoid fever in a village in Abuyog town, Leyte.

Boyet Cerno, regional assistant secretary of DOH 8, said the victims were all residents of Barangay Baliwasan, located some seven kilometers away from the town proper.

The contaminated open dug well, source of the drinking water of the village's 1,600 residents, was traced as the cause of the illness, according to Cerno.

Last Wednesday, the regional health office distributed antibiotics and other medicines to the victims. They were also given chlorine tablets to disinfect the water coming from the open dug well.

Cerno said their investigators had revealed that the first typhoid fever in the village occurred in the second week of May.

But it was only last Wednesday that their office was informed about the typhoid fever cases in the village by the local sanitary office.

"Typhoid fever, among its manifestations, is prolonged fever. And some of the victims done to conduct self-medication, the illness continued this week, we still have some cases of typhoid fever there," Cerno explained.

The regional medical team said that of the 48 persons afflicted, only six were considered in a hospital.

Cerno said they also advised the villagers to observe personal hygiene to prevent the further spread of the disease.

"We also advised them to boil their drinking water," Cerno said.

The health official said that with the events of the cases, he suspected some typhoid fever cases to occur in the region, especially in areas that depend on open sources for their drinking.

Early this week, typhoid fever also downed 20 persons in Barangay San Miguel in Hernani town, Eastern Samar, with its open spring as the source of the sickness.

Dr. Rosalinda Baculanta, town health officer, said the victims have been sifting for the past three weeks but decided to seek medical assistance only on Wednesday.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ SAN PABLO CITY

Dengue cases down

DENGUE cases in Laguna and San Pablo City decreased during the first five months of this year, according to the Department of Health officials here.

Laguna health director Dr. Alfonso Lagos said the decrease that from January to May, the number of dengue cases in the province that decreased by more than half compared to last year.

Dr. Job Rivera, city health director, reported that the dengue cases in the city decreased by 38 during the first five months of 2008. Last year, 79 dengue cases were recorded in the city for the first five months and only 41 dengue cases during the same period this year.

Rhonda B. Pools, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ SORSOGON CITY

NPA victim's body found

THE DECOMPOSED remains of a man believed to be murdered by New People's Army rebels seven years ago was found at Barangay Mabuga-nawe, Castilla town, Sorsogon at about 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Lt. Col. Danilo Pacot, Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Battalion commander, said in a phone interview.

Pacot said an NPA rebel who is now in jail confessed to the authorities and led government agents to the location of the remains of Julian Arias of Barangay San Ricardo, a former member of a paramilitary unit.

He was reportedly taken from his home by NPA rebels in October 2001 and was murdered the following month, police said in a phone interview.

Police said the suspects are Eleuterio Mangaring-ocalan Guiao and Ka Dindo, and Jerry Cagasol, both identified NPA members.

Roy Corvera, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CABANATUAN CITY

88 crime suspects nabbed

AT LEAST least 88 crime suspects were arrested by the Nueva Ecija police during a nine-day operation in the province.

Senior Supt. Napoleon Taas, provincial police director, said the operation, coordinated with the help of local government officials and informants, was conducted from June 11 to 20. Taas said the police purfused these suspects following complaints that they had been seen roaming around freely in the province.

Taas also said the police have seized 73 unlicensed firearms in different towns and cities in Nueva Ecija since Jan. 11.

Analalin Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ COTABATO CITY

Fire guts Catholic church

A FIRE of still undetermined origin gutted down a Catholic church in Magpidsican Thursday night, the San Pedro Parish Church said in a statement.

"We are uncertain what triggered the fire because there was heavy downpour in Cebu Pilgrim Shrine Thursday," Bishop Jose Dela Rosa Bantolo, auxiliary bishop of Cotabato said.

The Sta. Teresita parish church in Cebu Pilgrim was more than 50 years old and survived years of war and calamities.

Damages was placed at P1 million, Bantolo said.

Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

■ KALINGA

1 dead in blast

AN EXPLOSION near a contract site at the city proper of Tabuk, Kalinga killed a man and wounded 15 others on Sunday as the city was preparing for its first founding anniversary on June 23.

Senior Supt. Maximiano Valentin Kalinga police director, said the blast occurred between 10:30 and 11 a.m. at a contract site in Barangay Dagupan Centro, killing resident Federico Bayongan. Police have yet to determine the type of explosives in the blast, although initial reports said it was caused by a grenade, said Senior Supt. Alfredo Sangpet, Tabuk police chief.

The victims were taken to different hospitals in the city and in Tuguegarao City in Cagayan.

Vincent Cabreza and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ DAVAO DEL SUR

2 rape cases alarm cops

POLICE expressed alarm over the two incidents of rape that occurred in Sta. Maria town in less than a month.

Insp. Alexander Plasencia said the latest victim was 14-year-old "Joan" who was sexually assaulted by a 32-year-old neighbor on June 13 while she had stayed in Mati. Her two sisters watching television from another house.

"The suspect had been arrested and is now in police custody," Plasencia said.

He said on May 25, another minor was molested by an uncle.

Plasencia said in both instances, the minors had no companions.

Orlando B. Dilao, Inquirer Mindanao

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Typhoon 'Frank' puts Iloilo under water

Rounds, executive officer of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), said all of Iloilo's 42 towns and the city including those that had not previously experienced flooding, were under water, he said.

Officials said it was the worst flooding experienced in Western Visayas, with the number of fatalities rising to 81. Fifty-two people died in Iloilo province, 15 in Antique, six in Iloilo City, and four each in Capiz and Negros Occidental. Still missing were at least 326 others, including 78 in Iloilo and 53 in Antique, according to disaster officials.

The figures were expected to increase as reports trickled in from towns and villages, many of which were still isolated by floodwaters.

The governors of Iloilo and Capiz and the cities of Iloilo and Roxas are expected to be placed under states of calamity today.

Rescue and relief agencies scrambled to reach the typhoon victims and provide them assistance.

Appeal for help

"We need all the help that we can get," said Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas in a phone interview from Morocco where he is on an official trip. He appealed for donations of ready-to-eat food, potable water and dry clothes.

The mayor said he was cutting short his trip to be able to return immediately to the city.

The City Schools Division of the Department of Education yesterday declared the suspension of classes for at least three days because the schools were being used as evacuation centers. Many students were also among the victims.

Frank's heavy rains and strong winds battered communities, sweeping houses and toppling trees and electric poles, including transmission lines of the power plant in Barangay Ingore, 42 kilometers south of here.

Water rose so high that officials had to open gates of Jaspe's Marathon Dam, which supplies irrigation water, to prevent it from overflowing.

Many roads were impassable because of fallen trees and landslides.

Trees and rooftops

Tens of thousands of residents climbed trees and rooftops after waking up on Saturday to floodwaters already inside their homes. While flooding subsided in some areas on Sunday, many towns reported continued flooding.

Electricity remained cut off in most parts of Iloilo and Negros Occidental, and in the whole of Capiz, Aklan and Antique. Power restoration could take at least a week in many areas, said Iloilo provincial administrator Manuel Mejaredo during a meeting of the PDCC.

Thousands of people were evacuated to gymnasiums in schools from all of Capiz's 16 municipalities and Roxas City. Gov. Victor Tanco said in a phone interview.

Communication lines were cut off in Capiz and Aklan. Bayco said the typhoon knocked down cell sites, hampering communication of reports to local rescue operations.

Most roads were impassable in Capiz, said PDCC action officer Arnold Talabucon.

In Iloilo City, most of the 180 villages were flooded. Trees and giant billboards fell, and cars and other vehicles were swept by rampaging waters, even on major streets. Thousands were blown or carried away by winds or floods.

Frantic calls for help swamped rescue and relief agencies and radio stations since Saturday as many residents all over the province and city climbed to rooftops or the second story of their houses when floodwaters reached the first sleep.

Many of the victims, who had been on rooftops since dawn, expended the measure to fetch them with boats.

River confluence

The city and some areas of the neighboring town of Pavia traditionally experience flooding during storms and continuous rains because of their location at the confluence of the Tigum and Aganan rivers, the main tributaries in Iloilo.

But officials were stunned and overwhelmed by the magnitude and extent of the calamity. They were at a loss to explain why areas, which have never experienced flooding before, were submerged to peak of water overnight.

"This is a very sad day for Iloilo. We have never experienced flooding like this before," said Gov. Niel Tupas Jr. during a meeting yesterday of the PDCC.

According to PDCC's Rounds, hardest hit were the northern and central towns of Iloilo, including Barotac Viejo, Dueñas, Mina-ntic, Calinog, Passi and San Rafaelita.

Rescue personnel and equipment were not enough to reach the number of those needing evacuation.

A family of eight in Barangay Naipanan in Tigbauan town, 24 km north of the city was swept by waters on Saturday. Their bodies were recovered yesterday, said Mayor Jesusa Jaed Tuero.

Flooded hospital

In Janiuay town, 34 km northwest, patients and staff members of the Janiuay District Hospital swam through the ceiling to escape the waters that rapidly entered the hospital.

One of the 25 patients, Patrocinio Belostar, 92, died three hours attack. She was dependent on an oxygen machine that was also destroyed in the flood.

Patients in two other district hospitals were transferred to neighboring hospitals after the flood seriously damaged or destroyed hospital equipment, said Dr. Judy Ann Tronpeco-Dumayas, chief of the provincial hospital management service.

"We are overwhelmed. Almost all of our barangays are under water. We have never experienced this extent of flooding and it pains us to think that we cannot reach and help the victims," said Mayor Arcadio Gorriceta of Pavia.

Not trained

Sen. Barbara Mayor Isabela Maguire said that in previous storms, waters reached only ankle-high even if the province was placed under Storm Signal No. 3. "One people never got trained to handle this kind of calamity," he said.

Maguire said residents were caught by surprise by how fast the water rose and because it came from inland. "We were monitoring the size of our rivers and we did not expect that the water will come from the mountains."

Local government units and agencies did not have enough equipment and personnel to handle distress calls and were not prepared to handle the situation.

In the capital town of San Jose in Antique, 70 families remained trapped as of yesterday in Barangay Danog, said Xolo Tablazon, provincial administrator and acting governor.

Destruction in Boracay

Frank also brought destruction to Boracay Island, the country's top tourist destination. Boats and billboards were ruined, and resort owner Nonette Cruz.

Strong winds and waves smashed the seawall of resorts along the Boracay Beach, at the opposite side of the main white beach.

Air Force helicopters were sent on search and rescue missions, including delivering relief goods to victims in areas not accessible from land vehicles.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has directed all naval and air assets ready for rescue and relief operations in Western Visayas, according to her regional assistant Raul Bautista.

Bautista appealed for help from other provinces and international relief and rehabilitation agencies.

Damaged roads and bridges were estimated to reach P500 million, according to the PDCC. Crops worth hundreds of millions of pesos were destroyed by flooding in as much as 70 percent of the farming areas.

Board Member Jett Reyes said the calamity was a "wake-up call" for all, especially officials and agencies. He blamed continued deforestation in the cause of flooding.

Reyes said a portion of the calamity fund should be allocated for reforestation projects and to develop disaster preparedness of local government units. With a report from Felipe Calleo, Inquirer Visayas

AN OLD "acacia" tree toppled by Typhoon "Frank" blocks Roxas Avenue in Roxas City in Capiz.

SWEPT AWAY Rampaging floodwaters brought this truck to its side in the middle of a street in Iloilo City at the height of Typhoon "Frank."

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'Frank' shifts course, batters Metro

Rescuers at 1
were helping relatives of ferry passengers with areas debriefing, according to the Associated Press.
However, a later report from Agence France-Presse said at least 220 people were confirmed dead. The French news agency cited the number was based on a combined tally from Red Cross and civil defense officials.
Quoting Gordon, the news agency said Bohi suffered the heaviest losses, with 191 people dead in the province. (See related story on 4th page.)
The casualties did not include the hundreds of passengers and crew still unaccounted for after announcement search capsized the inter-island ferry MV Princess of the Stars, owned by Sulpicio Lines, off Sibuyan Island in Romblon. (See Section.)
Gordon, in an earlier call with the Inquirer, put the provisional death toll at 138 to 14 provinces.
Manila's air space was closed to all outbound and incoming flights yesterday morning as Frank grounded departures of domestic carriers and diverted international arrivals.
Operations at the Manila domestic terminal almost came to a complete halt as most flights of Cebu Pacific Air, Southeast Asian Airlines (Seair) and Asian Spirit were cancelled, the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) said.
Most of the fatalities drowned in floods while others were killed in accidents, including a member hit by falling trees.
Floods up to six feet deep swept several areas.

Bohi hardest hit

Many of the deaths, who included children, occurred in the Visayas and Mindanao.
Gov. Erik Tupas of Bohi, one of the hardest hit areas, said thousands of his countrymen had been displaced. "Almost all the towns are covered by water. It's like an ocean," Tupas said.
Maldevarma town in Antique was also badly hit. Nine people, including an entire family of six, died in the Cayanmaan river overflowed, causing four half a 300-meter bridge, Antique, according to Mayor Joyce Bocayna.
"All crops are destroyed, roofs of houses torn apart, power is down, people need food and medicine. The situation is cut from the rest of the province ... Please help us," Bocayna said in a message received by the Inquirer.

Buses wrecked

In Batangas, Leyte, 5-year-old Jhon Kenneth Gaona drowned while his year-old brother, Christian, was reported missing.
Two unidentified people also drowned in the course of Hong-ed and Mexico, also in Leyte.
Six people, mainly fishermen, were also missing in Leyte, where big waves wrecked three fishing boats and sank a passenger vessel.
In Marajas and Surigao del Norte, seven fishermen were reported missing while 39 others were rescued when their fishing boats capsized.
In Central Mindanao, thousands of villagers were displaced by flash floods in Shariff Kabunsuan and nearby provinces.

People on rooftops

Air force helicopters backed ground troops in helping civilians stranded by floods in Shariff Kabunsuan.
In South Upi, Maguindanao, 14 of Jaguna were swept away by rampaging waters after the Bliss River overflowed. "Hopefully we can recover them, even their dead bodies, so those buried could be done," village official Joy Rapsing Mobo said.
Some villagers in Sultan Kudarat scrapped the floods by climbing to the roofs of their houses, said Col. Alfredo Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson.
He said 22 of Quezon's 33 villages were flooded. A recent surge destroyed at least 200 houses in the coastal areas of Infanta, he said.
Evacuees in the Calabarzon area sought shelter in barangay halls and public schools.
Two cargo sea vessels and five fishing boats capsized in Cotta port in Lucena City.

No Masses

The Laguna police said around 500 families in the province sought shelter in public schools and barangay halls because of rising floodwaters.
In San Pablo City, some 500 families were evacuated and 40 houses destroyed.
The towns of San Maria, Mahinc, Siniloan and Pakil were submerged in knee-deep water.
The scheduled 6 a.m. Masses were not held in Pangil, Nagcarlan and San Pablo City because the churches were flooded.
In Oriental Mindoro, no major damages were reported as the typhoon abruptly changed direction on Saturday night and veered to the right, hitting Mamburao and Quezon instead, said Oriental Mindoro governor Rosalyn Panaligan.
In Bicol, 1,216 passengers were stranded in various ports in the region.

Couple electrocuted

In Bulacan, Nestor Dominguez and his wife, Jocelyn, were electrocuted inside their flooded store in Marilao town on Sunday.
At least 28 villages in Obando, Marilao and Bulacan were flooded. Electricity was cut off in other towns.
Gov. Joselito Mendoza said the towns of San Maria, Obando and Pandacaqui and Meycauayan City had been placed under a state of calamity.
In Batangas, strong winds forced several airlines serving the Batangas International Airport at the Clark Freeport to cancel their flights.
Electricity was cut off in the towns of Calatagan, Mabini, Bauan, Malabrigo, San Luis, San Pascual, San Juan, Lipa, Ibaan, Taysan, Rosario, Tanauan, Balayan, Lian, Nasugbu, Tuy, Taal, Santo Tomas, San Luis, Agoncillo, Laurel, Sta. Rita, Batangas, Pinamalayan, Bansud, Gloria, Naujan, Victoria, Mansalay and Magsaysay at 10 a.m. The City of San Fernando lost power at noon.
The towns of Subic and Calaguiman in Zambales were also without electricity.

Aviation disrupted

The typhoon also disrupted civil aviation.
Seven international flights supposed to land in Manila yesterday morning from the United States and Southeast Asian cities were diverted to the Cebu airport.
Philippine Air Lines said its four flights from the United States were able to complete its journey to Manila by early afternoon, as Flash had exited Manila's air space.
PAL have announced the resumption of normal operations by yesterday after most of its biggest jet aircraft were deemed safe to fly despite rains and strong winds.
The typhoon caused transfers in several areas in Metro Manila.
Most hard-hit was the northernmost area of Gumamaan (Quiaoanes, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela cities), along with Manila and some southern cities like Pasaltapan, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said.
Metrobase, the monitoring station of the MMDA, identified some of the hazards in areas such as the MacArthur Highway in Valenzuela, Quezon City and Pio Valenzuela in Manila (short-deep water).
Over 900 families were evacuated in the province of Pakalcal in the city of San Juan.

Flooded areas

Several areas in Manila were submerged in floodwaters, including R. Papa, United Nations, Taft and third avenues, Quezon Boulevard, Dimasalang, Espana, Laong Laan, A. Mabini, Ilalim, Ermita, Pedro Gil, Abad Santos, C.M. Recto and Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard.
Few taxicabs and passenger jeeps were seen plying their routes, rounding many commuters. Most of them were forced to wade through the floods.
But if some considered the typhoon a curse, pedicab drivers took it as a blessing, offering to ferry passengers as triple the normal fare.
In all, about 850 families were left homeless in the metropolis, said Ginny Bautista, director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Meralco woes

Meralco said areas that still had no power as of noon yesterday included portions of Malabon, Navotchas, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasay, San Juan in Manila, and Muntinlupa cities and San Pedro town in Laguna.
Meralco vice president Steve G. Has said that as 2 p.m., emergency crews had restored power to about half of the affected areas.
Meralco's initial monitoring showed that the first circuits to be affected were those in Laguna and Batangas, as well as those in Cainta, Binondo and Intramuros in Manila; Gruar Park in Caloocan; Mandaluyong; Intramuros in Cavite, and Tagaytay City.
Power outages also hit Alabang in Muntinlupa, Valenzuela in Quezon City and some parts of Rizal.
Has asked customers to limit calls to the Meralco call centre to simply reporting downed poles and lines to avoid clogging the hotlines.
"Customers don't have to report power outages in their areas since this is already being monitored and handled by Meralco personnel and linemen who are deployed in the field," Has said.
However, customers with concerns other than downed poles and lines could send text messages to 0917-5592824 and 0920-5592824, with reports from Tina G. Santos, Ed Yap and Beverly T. Santiago in Manila; Joey A. Gabieta and Joni Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas; Delfin Mallari Jr., Ella Catherine Cahiya, Romulo Pena, Madonna Virola and Norma T. Gutic, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Chris Pangonilian, Edwin O. Fernandez, Agelbe Zonio and Julie T. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao; Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Yolanda Cardinoza, Nilsmar Viray, Jimmi and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Pope offers special prayers

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI on Sunday pledged to say a "special prayer to God" for victims of the tragedy involving the typhoon-stricken MV Princess of the Stars that sank with more than 700 people on board in the Philippines, a mainly Roman Catholic nation.
"It is with deep emotion that I learn this morning of the sinking in the Philippines of a ferry hit by Typhoon Fengshen (Frank)," the Pope said after reciting the Angelus prayer following his Sunday Mass at the Vatican.
Expressing "spiritual closeness" with Filipinos living in the typhoon's path, the Pope said he wanted be making "a special prayer to God for the victims of a new tragedy at sea, in which it appears many children were involved."
President Macapagal-Arroyo last year invited Pope Benedict to visit the Philippines, where eight out of 10 people are Roman Catholics. The last papal visit to the Southeast Asian nation was made by the late John Paul II in 1981. AFP

RESIDENTS in a low-lying area in Navotas evacuate to safe ground as Typhoon "Frank" hit the city. MIKE ALQUINTO

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Sulpicio Lines cleared in 3 sea disasters

SINCE 1987, SULPICIO LINES has figured in at least three maritime disasters, including the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy. In all three accidents, however, the shipping company owned by the Go family has been cleared of any criminal responsibility for the deaths of thousands of passengers.

On Dec. 20, 1987, a Sulpicio Lines ferry, the MV Doña Paz, collided with a Caltex tanker off Mindoro. MT Vector, as Caltex Strait drifting Mindoro and Marinduque, an uninhabited island-studded waterway between Luzon and Visayas. Only 26 people were rescued from the sea. The Doña Paz and two crew members of the Vector were later found dead.

The sinking of the Doña Paz, which was ferrying passengers from Tacloban City to Manila, left the Ochoromas a holiday in area. widowed the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy that left more than 4,000 people dead.

IN THE KNOW

On Oct. 20, 1998, the Board of Marine Inquiry "absolved" Sulpicio Lines of any responsibility and found the Vector at fault for the collision. In 1992, however, the Manila Regional Trial Court held Sulpicio Lines "solely responsible" for the accident and ordered the shipping firm to pay P1.2 million to the heirs of two victims.

Four years later, however, the Court of Appeals absolved the shipping company of any liability and held

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MURDER OR ACCIDENT?

Police find clue in baby's death

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA POLICE ARE FOLLOWING up a lead which might help them solve the death of a newborn baby girl who was believed to have been thrown out of the window of a condominium unit in Binondo last week.

Meanwhile, the police will also file charges today against a woman who tried to stop them from concluding a limited test inside one of the condominium units.

A limited test can show traces of blood stains which are invisible to the naked eye, said Supt. Nelson Yabut, chief of the Manila Police District Meisic station.

The test results would help them determine whether the baby had come from the unit.

"Hopefully this procedure we will find to be the place or the person behind the crime," Yabut said.

According to the police official, Mary Chua Chiaro, 26, will be charged with obstruction of justice and oral defamation at the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

Chiaro, the owner of a unit on the 19th floor of the Goldfields Mansion on Juboneta Street, Binondo, tried to stop them from conducting a limited test in one of the units on the 11th floor, saying the procedure was illegal, Yabut said.

"She was hurling invectives at us, saying we had no search warrant," he added. "But we were allowed by the owner of the unit, Steven Chua, to proceed."

Chiaro, according to the police, is Chua's niece.

Yabut said they found a vomit inside Chua's toilet which tested positive for blood stains when it was subjected to a luminol test.

The test was repeated in several other units on different floors of the condominium although the results were all negative, he added.

Yabut said further tests were needed to determine if the towel found inside the toilet bowl had blood stains.

Chua, he added, would also be investigated.

On June 17, the body of a newborn baby girl was found at around 11 a.m. in the roof garden of a condominium beside the condominium. Near the baby was a placenta placed inside a black plastic bag.

Yabut said watchman workers rushed the baby to a nearby lying-in clinic, but later transferred her to Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital where she was declared dead on arrival.

Witnesses told the police that they noticed something being thrown out of a window on the upper floors of the condominium before the baby was found.

DID YOU KNOW

ON JUNE 21, 1947, President Manuel Roxas signed a bill converting the town of Pateros into a city and renaming it Rizal. But nearly three years later, residents were still not used to calling the area Rizal City. On May 3, 1950, President Elpidio Quirino, a former Pateros resident, signed into law a bill which gives back the city its previous name.

Cyril J. Bonalaan, Inquirer Research

PACO PARK: A "historical romantic place."

JUNE BRIDES' CHOICE

Former cemetery now a favorite wedding venue

By Didon Fenelon Bayday
Contributor

IT HAS BEEN ALMOST 30 YEARS and yet Linda Nicolas Lorzia, New York-based lawyer, industrialist and chairperson/executive officer of TLC Beatrice International Holdings, can still recall romantic details about her wedding at the St. Francisco Chapel in Paco Park, Manila.

"It was 7 a.m. on Aug. 15, 1970, and the morning sun was just coming out," Linda recalled her walk down the aisle on the arm of her father, Francisco Nicolas, toward the groom, American businessman Reginald F. Lorzia. "The sound of birds chirping all around seemed at once inspired in the early morning light. Then, there was the fountain with sparkling water in the center. I just loved it!"

"I wanted to be married close to where we lived (Taft Avenue corner Quirino Avenue in Manila), she told the inquirer in a phone interview.

Added attraction

"My father hired Wedding Philippines, at that time was one of the first wedding coordinators around. They recommended Paco Park, and I loved it for two reasons: Sentosal here Jose Rizal was buried there and the added attraction of a fountain at the wedding site. Personally, it was planned by the parish priest in charge of the park for the parish priest from our home province, Sorsogon, to conduct the rites," Linda said.

Only immediate relatives were invited to the ceremony held inside the oval chapel which was not yet air-conditioned at that time, she recalled. The reception was held at the Manila Hotel by the bay where many guests awaited the wedding party.

Margarita Escaler-Harrison, the only daughter of Nicolas "Ching" de Leon-Escaler, the late Filipino woman to become permanent representative to the United Nations, also wanted to have a small, intimate wedding in a historical site. Her groom-to-be son of their sister, the Escalers, De Leons (of DBS Preserves), Puentevellas and their wide network of friends—"nobody believed we could pull it off!" Ching said.

She added: "My daughter, who is based in Boston, did not want the family of her husband, Stuart Harrison, who are based in Australia but who came for the wedding, to be overwhelmed by our tradition of a big wedding with hundreds of guests. When my daughter first saw the site, she fell in love with it."

The nuptials were held at 5:30 p.m. on April 17, 2002. It was officiated by Bishop Bo ralez, the bride's grandnuncle, and Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. The reception, which included a sit-down dinner for only 85 guests, followed at the park's Bounce Filled grounds.

"It was indeed a simple wedding at a historical romantic place as the bride wanted," Ching recalled. "Margarita wanted to make sure she knew all the people in the wedding. We even had the chapel repainted and the entrances fixed. Our grounds were small jets and left paintings of the church."

"The place had lots of character and a certain ambience," added Margarita.

"We will forever look back fondly to our wedding in such a romantic and historical place. It was the perfect setting for the kind of wedding we wanted and had...small, intimate and untouched by all the people we love. I also thought the ceremony added to the ambience" she said.

For Mary Ann and Eddie Al. valde, Paco Park was a natural choice for their wedding. Apart from the historical significance of the park and the fountain at the center, only a short walk away are Mabuhay University, the couple's alma mater.

"Eddie was active in the theater circuit in campus and it was at the park where they always had their workshops and rehearsals for school plays," said Mary Ann. "We also both grew up in the area (Ermita) and our families are still there. Jose Rizal at Paco chapel."

Describing their wedding on June 8, 1996, Mary Ann, who works with Intel, recalled: "The ambience was colorful but the mood was festive. Love was in the air. The ceremony started at 7 p.m. Our close to 200 guests found it everything inspiring, especially the beautiful and soothing homily of the two priests: Fr. James B. Reuter, S. J. and Fr. Frank M. Vargas, C. M. It was really a warm and celebration of love and life."

St. Vincent de Paul parish priest, Fr. Rene Ibarra, under whose jurisdiction the St. Francisco Chapel of Paco Park falls, said they average 14 weddings a month although on one time, they hit a peak of 29 weddings (sometimes four to a day) in December.

Intimate, historic setting

"We normally charge P13,000 which includes the use of the air-conditioned room, red carpet from the church door, and flowers. The oval-shaped chapel with a circular dome has a maximum seating capacity of 150. For people who appreciate history, for those who just want to have a real fine pointe, this is the place," he said.

"The value of this place is something you treasure," explained Ibarra, a history buff. The park used to be a cemetery for victims of a cholera epidemic in the 1820s, as well as the burial grounds of 200-some officers and distinguished personalities like Governor Simon de Anda and Andres Novales, uncle of Jose Rizal, apart from Rizal.

However, there have been no burials in the multi-storied circular park since 1910. Rizal's remains were first interred in the outer circle of the park from 1898 till 1898 until these were relocated and given to his family's care. In 1912, Rizal's ashes were transferred to his final resting place in Rizal Park.

One thing they don't allow in the building of stakes on the grounds, added Ibarra, who is also the Superior of the Vincentian Community of Manila. The park, on the other hand, is not only a favorite venue for weddings but also for concerts, theater groups, recital shows and art lectures.

Today Paco Park remains a silent witness to many historical and social events. It has yet to be declared a National Heritage Site, something the Nicolas-Lorzia, Escaler-Harrison and Lorzia-Abalos families wish for, as it was where one of the most important events in their lives took place.

"THE PERFECT setting," says Margarita Escaler of the park. She and her husband, Stuart Harrison, were married at the venue in 2002.

URBAN SCENE
Only a few braved Bypass Avenue in Manila yesterday which flyboard "Frank" turned into a vast swimming pool.

Citizen's call

COMMUTERS' BANE
Ilene Santiago of Bayani Bank Plaza, Makati City writes: "There's always a mega traffic situation on Pasong Tamo Street (or Chino Roces Avenue now) every morning because jeepney drivers going to the Makati side area are using the lane at Washington Towers corner Buendia Avenue as their terminal while they wait for passengers. Why are the Makati traffic aides not acting on this? They should now serve these jeepneys. They create chaos in the streets every day and we commuters, especially, are affected. Many of us are forced to alight from public transport vehicles even before reaching our destinations and walk to our offices because traffic is at a standstill. We hope someone can help us. Thank you."

Parañaque subdivision needs police outpost

Dito sa Malaking Homes sa may Pasong Sandaan (Subdivision sa Parañaque City), ang dumaraming tambay na mga kabataan sa labas ng gate gabi-gabi, at pagkatapos mag-usapang Jolo na sa Senopsopis Street. Dapat siguro magkaroon ng police outpost dun. Mayor Nonoy de Guzman! There are drinking sessions inside the homes of residents every night at Malaking Homes inside Greenheights Subdivision in Parañaque City that often result in brawls, especially on Sampaguita Street. It would help if there is a police outpost in that area. How about it, Mayor Bondoc!?!

Sharon Dee, 23, Parañaque City

Street intersection now a terminal

The intersection of A. Rodriguez Street (Catanduanes side) and Marcos Highway at the border of the cities of Pasig and Marikina has become a permanent terminal for passenger jeepneys. There are Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials in the vicinity, but they don't seem to notice the barkers' loud shouts and the ensuing blowing of horns. Despite repeated complaints, city and local government officials have done nothing to ease the situation.

Jerry, 38, Pasig City

Jeepneys without headlights at night

Calling on the MMDA. Please appr hend jeepney drivers playing Manny Manalo who don't turn on their headlights at night. They endanger other motorists' lives, not to mention property. Instead of going after those who play loud music in public transport vehicles, let's run after these drivers who don't give a damn about the safety of others. Pagmulat Ang mata ko! Para ma-hulaan ang mga yan! They should be given still times to learn their lessons.

Gino, 18, Quezon City

Easier route to Cumeta Highway, if...

It was a driving on Evangelista Street in Makati City, who seemed got to Libis on the way to Cubao, Quezon City the direction of Cubao if he will not go to the South Super Highway (President Sergio Osmeña Highway) first, then swing around Magallanes Village. There are NO signs at all giving directions to Cubao/Cumeta. If the line traders of Hen. Del Pilar Street (near the police station) is corrected, the route to the South Super Highway will be much easier. Thank you.

Hector Fernando, 38, Baguio, Makati City

MetroBriefs

Makati City offers short courses

THE MAKATI City government is offering free training for residents who want to work in slaughterhouses, whether here or abroad. The training is open to all residents who are able to meet the prerequisites that require mature and responsible trainees, given the nature of the skills to be taught," Mayor Jejomar Binay said in a statement. The Makati Training Placement and Livelihood Concerns will conduct the Slaughtering Operations National Certification Level II course in cooperation with the Slaughter House Operators Association of the Philippines. The course will train residents in operational skills and equip them with knowledge and the proper attitude on slaughtering cattle, calf or swine. Dr. Hidilyn Diaz, MPLC president, said the training will last 360 hours. Applicants should be at least high school graduates, of good moral character and able to communicate in oral or written English. Those interested should look for Eileen Dy at the MPLC office in the administrative building of the University of Makati in Barangay West Rembo. The MPLC is also offering courses in automotive, call center, electronics, computer technician, electrical building wiring, welding and refrigeration and air-conditioner repair.

Julie M. Jurado

Manila City gov't recognizes outstanding artists

TEN AWARDEES from seven recognized by the Manila City government for their achievements in the field of arts and culture in celebration of Araw ng Maynila on June 24. The highest honor, the Gawad Dilag ng Lahi award, went to freelance Agustin Alvarez while the next highest award, the Gawad Balagtas, was conferred on Gener A. Caringal. The awards were handed out last Friday at the Manila Hotel. The Parangal Pamumuhay ng Dating Alagad ng Kahusayan awards, meanwhile, were given to Jose Mabi Mendoza for sculpture, Romulo Galicano for painting, Lucila Lara Pialy for theater, Rogelio Mangahas for literature, Leo Martinez for film and Jerold Jehovah Tan for dance. Special awards were also handed out to Manuel Maximo del Castillo-Arocha, Ana Maria Vargas and the Lopez Memorial Museum.

Alexis M. Lopez

8 Muntinlupa gov't workers positive for drugs

A TOTAL of 251 government workers in Muntinlupa City have been tested for drugs after Mayor Aldrex San Pedro signed Executive Order 14 requiring everyone at City Hall to undergo random testing. Dr. Raquel Valentino of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Office said that of the eight employees who tested positive, three were rehabilated, three were referred to undergo rehabilitation while two underwent counseling," she said.

Julie M. Jurado

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ibasco

Iran presses on with nuke enrichment 'nonstop'

TEHRAN—IRAN IS PRESSING on with uranium enrichment "nonstop," its envoy to the UN nuclear agency was quoted as saying on Saturday, despite a world powers' offer of economic incentives to coax Tehran into halting such activities.

The Islamic Republic also appeared to dismiss any suggestion of freezing nuclear work it says is for generating electricity but which the West suspects is aimed at making bombs.

Six major powers, including the United States, last week offered Iran help in developing a civilian nuclear programme and other benefits in their latest attempt to resolve a long-running row that has helped pushed oil prices to record highs.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator said Tehran was ready to start negotiations "based on a win-win principle," the official IRNA news agency said. But it "will not bow to any illogical demands that would deprive it of its rights or constitute a risk to peaceful nuclear activities," Saeed Jalili added.

The United States says it is boosting its diplomatic pressure to thwart Tehran's nuclear ambitions but has not ruled out military action as a last resort.

The New York Times on Friday quoted US officials as saying Israel had carried out a large military exercise, apparently as a rehearsal for a potential bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities.

The UN nuclear watchdog chief, Mohamed ElBaradei, the same day warned a military strike on Iran would turn the Middle East into a fireball.

Iranian government spokesperson Gholamhossein Elham on Saturday branded Israel a "dangerous regime" but made clear his views it would not dare attack, when asked about the report.

Diplomats said on Friday the six powers had offered Iran preliminary talks on its nuclear programme, on condition it limit enrichment to current levels for six weeks in exchange for a freeze on moves towards harsher sanctions. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

10,000 British soldiers unfit for frontline

LONDON—More than 10,000 British soldiers are unfit for frontline duty as the pressure of supplying troops for years of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan takes its toll on the army, the Sunday Telegraph reported. The newspaper said the Ministry of Defence admits that 9,000 soldiers from the 50,000-strong "Field Army"—units such as tank, artillery and infantry regiments—are classified as unfit to serve at the front. When other soldiers classified as unfit from the overall 131,000-strong army are taken into account, the total figure is likely to exceed 10,000, said the newspaper, which is traditionally close to the armed forces. AFP

China cop promoted for breastfeeding quake babies

BEIJING—A Chinese police woman who breastfed babies orphaned during last month's earthquake has been given a better job, prompting online protests that promotions should be awarded on merit, not merely for good deeds. Jiang Xiaojuan, 30, left her own baby with her parents and took part in the disaster relief work, breastfeeding nine babies, earning her the nickname of "the police mum" in the press. She has since been awarded titles of "hero and model police officer" and "excellent member of the Communist Party." Rangoni, population 850,000, is a city near the epicenter of the May 12 Sichuan quake which killed more than 69,000 people with thousands still missing. Reuters

Group: Israeli army abuses Palestinian prisoners

JERUSALEM—An Israeli antitorture watchdog said in a report on Sunday Israeli soldiers routinely abuse bound Palestinian detainees and it accused the military of "absolute indifference" towards such mistreatment. The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) said its findings were based on 90 detailed accounts from Palestinians as well as from soldiers who witnessed the abuse and were concerned over the army's failure to stop it. Soldiers, the report said, were frequently violent towards Palestinian detainees, including minors, in many cases after they had been handcuffed and no longer posed a threat. "On certain occasions, the ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees is highly violent, resulting in serious injury. At other times, abuse manifests itself in a routine of beating, degradation and additional abuses," the PCATI said. Reuters

New source of heart stem cells found

PARIS—Researchers in the United States have discovered a new group of stem cells that can grow into heart muscle cells, known as "epicardiocytes," according to a study published Sunday. The stem cells are located in the outermost layer of the heart and could one day play a critical role in regenerating injured heart tissues, the researchers say. "In heart failure, you lose cardiomyocytes, so the only way to reverse heart failure is to make more of these cells," said William Pu, the study's lead researcher and a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. AFP

Bill Gates surrendering Microsoft helm

SAN FRANCISCO—A HARVARD UNIversity dropout who ushered in the home computer age and made billions of dollars along the way will have his last official day of work at Microsoft on June 27.

Some people will essentially fill the void left behind when Bill Gates retires from the company he and friend Paul Allen co-founded in 1975.

Steve Ballmer began his transition from leading Microsoft's to heading his personally bankrolled charity, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, his job as chief software architect has been handled by Ray Ozzie.

Craig Mundie inherited Gate's chief research and strategy officer duties, while former Harvard classmate Steve Ballmer became chief executive officer at the Seattle-based software colossus.

Gates left Harvard after two years to found the firm that became global powerhouse Microsoft. He later received honorary degrees from Harvard and other universities.

After retiring, Gates will remain chair of the Microsoft board of directors and its largest shareholder.

"I don't think anything is going to dramatically change the day he leaves," said Matt Rosoff of the private analyst firm Directions on Microsoft.

"If he thinks something is important and tells Steve Ballmer, Ballmer will listen to him."

Still, Gates's bespectacled cerebral visage is an integral part of Microsoft's image and his departure is symbolic, according to some here.

"The challenge Microsoft has when the founder departs is remembering to boast," said analyst Bob Enderle of the Enderle Group in Silicon Valley.

"At some point the firm has to take the essence of what made Bill Gates successful and make sure that is preserved. Whether it is a company or a person, once you've lost your heart there isn't much left but a shell." Analysts say there are signs that Microsoft has been struggling since Gates stepped away from managing operations several years ago.

Microsoft has "missed a number of opportunities" and the Windows and Office software cash cows it nurtures to fortune is badly overstrided. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Valle bags
Villar Cup
Cebu leg /A28

SPORTS

Editor Tobbyric S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

45 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

Beijing 2008

"SLOWER BUT STILL DEADLY" Manny Pacquiao hits the speedball as trainer Nonoy Nieri times him at the Wild Card gym. MARC ELIS

Roach wants big KO victory for Pacquiao

Manny now just 4 pounds off lightweight limit

By Ray Lauzo

HOLLYWOOD—HE DIDN'T DRENCH himself in sweat after another heavy workout with his prized ward, Freddie Roach ordered six rounds in marking the session short.

"I wrote a headline," the two-time Trainer of the Year said.

Stepping off a calibrated scale in a routine weight check Roach has incorporated into the training routine, Manny Pacquiao declared himself fit to accomplish the task.

The Filipino icon faces WBC lightweight champion David Diaz on June 28 at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas and Roach doesn't worry the reigning WBC super featherweight title is merely range past a fatal straight opponent.

He wants Pacquiao to round over a fallen foe at the end of the match.

"I feel (a knockout) will come in the later rounds," Roach said. "Well eventually break (Diaz's) down."

Pacquiao's last two bouts have left Roach

MARCH ELIS

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DIAZ: I know I can win this.

Diaz to counterattack when Manny pauses

By Ray Luarca

HOLLYWOOD—THE PLAN IS SIMPLE and feasible.

David Diaz intends to counterattack as soon as Manny Pacquiao stops attacking him when they collide for his World Boxing Council lightweight crown on June 26 at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

"Being the aggressor, Pacquiao stops once in a while from going forward," Diaz told Melissa Isaacson of the Chicago Tribune on Friday. "Maybe when he's resting, that's the time when we can attack."

The 32-year-old Diaz, of course, is also of course optimistic—a fighter who isn't afraid to take punches while attacking in his own.

Against Pacquiao, however, Diaz may be forced to switch strategy.

Pacquiao, easily the heavier puncher, is expected to bring the fight to Diaz, who is considered his strong finishing.

Diaz displayed this trait when he stopped Jose Armando Santa Cruz for the WBC interim lightweight title and when he defeated Rafi Morales—twice beaten by Pacquiao in their trilogy—last year.

In the undercard of Pacquiao's rematch with fellow WBC super lightweight titlist Juan Manuel Marquez, on March 15, Diaz also dragged off a sloppy mess to subdue Pacquiao opponent Herson Momzawa.

Now, Diaz has to face the world's top pound-for-pound fighter and he relishes the challenge, as well as the big money that goes with it.

"It's great, I want this challenge," said Diaz, who received just $350,000 against Morales but stands to get about $3 million against Pacquiao. (Initial reports said Pacquiao's purse is about $5 million.)

With Pacquiao having demolished the hard fighting Morales in his two bouts, the burden lies fullies on Diaz, son of Mexican immigrants and born in Chicago, to stop the Filipino's streak.

"There's just that feeling of hope that I owe to them (fans) when they talk to me, that I can (beat Pacquiao)," Diaz said.

"And it's not do this, then all Mexicans, in the United States, are going to have a good time."

Bañares, Wu seal title duel

By Manny R. Castillo

PROMISSORY WU Chin-ching came back from an enemy in three inches down yesterday to claim the vacant of German Huff Stoppert, 9-8, and forge a championship match with Philippine junior champion Jerwin Bañares for the $50,000 Pacific Princess Women's Cup 10-Ball at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum.

The Taiwanese, the World 9-Ball champion as a 16-year-old, three years ago, pulled even with a golden touch in the 12th rack for 8-ball before winning out in a toe-to-toe battle with the popular, wild-eyed Germany.

Wu will slug it out with the amazing Bañares for the $10,000 champion's purse.

Bañares scored Marites Morado to their semifinal duel, 9-8, to complete his giant-killing run and advance to the final.

Wu erased a 2-5 deficit with methodical precision, pouncing on every opportunity he got to take the lift ahead of Stoppert, the double world champion who finished second to Filipino Roland Alunan in the WPA 9-Ball two years ago in Manila.

That lifts last night, I trained alone, but I took it one rack at a time," Wu told reporters through an interpreter.

Trailing 7-8, Stoppert, meanwhile, invited things in the same rack before scratching on the break in the 17th frame to go down in his first participation in the Bombay Philippine Pool Tour that had its first stop in Mandaluyong last month.

Stoppert made the semifinals by edging Mandaluyong champion Antonio Gabica in the loser's bracket, 9-5, and seemed poised to go all the way with that $2 lead.

Morado and Bañares reached the semifinals by coming from the loser's bracket.

Bañares, who ousted Thomas Holzmann in the quarterfinals in Mandaluyong, showed Gabica the door with a 9-4 decision to set up his semifinal duel with Morado.

The 30-year-old Bañares almost fizzled out in the quarterfinals versus Gabica, awarding a crucial 8-ball to the reigning Asian Games gold medalist to pull off the win and ensure his finest performances in the two-leg-old Tour.

"Sir (Gabica) suffered some bad breaks toward the end," said Bañares in Pilipino after counting sweet revenge against the man who eliminated him in the semifinals in Mandaluyong. "I also got lucky but was very nervous throughout the match."

Morado, the runner-up to Gabica last month, brought down reigning world junior champion Ko Pin-yi of Taiwan, 9-7, to earn a shot at the championship for the second straight tournament.

NATIONAL junior champion Jerwin Bañares makes his shot against Wu Chia-ching.

Major win at last for gritty Valle

CEBU CITY—JIMMY VALLE FINALLY GOT ONE OVER ALEX PAGULAYAN and then some on his doorstep Dumlao Dumlao and scored a historic 8 chapters of the First Senate President Manuel Villar Cup-Cebu Leg yesterday before a jampacked crowd at the Teade Hall of SM City Cebu.

Valle, the 33 year-old former Asian Games gold medalist, bested Pagulayan, 9-4, in the semifinals—the first time he won over the former world champ...he...has spending world No. 1 Cruella, 11-3, in the finals.

"Di nakuha (At last)!" yelled Valle after pocketing the 9-ball in the 11th rack. "It's been a long time since I won a major title."

Valle is unstoppable in the opening leg of this series (no records as Gardball title being, some all the way from the losers' bracket, a 9-2 victory of Efren Jaime Manalo Tatanan right in the first round.

He bounced back by downing Rene Mar David, 9-5, and then some Hobe, 9-5, in a match where he endured severe headaches, to gain the knockout wages. He then whipped Adolfo Navarro, 9-1, Mike Takayama, 9-7, before swamping Carlo Biado, 9-6.

Orcollo's path to the finals was easier. He bested Dominic Benny Dionisio, 9-2, Bobby Jayme 9-6, John Rehwag 9-5, Josh Gomez 9-5, Lee Van Corteza 9-5 and World 9-Ball runner-up Roberto Gomez 9-5.

Valle capitalized on a missed shot by Orcollo on the 2-ball in the 12th rack to execute a 3-0 run that transformed his precarious 6-5 lead into victory.

Valle pocketed the money for the runner-up purse of P120,000.

Pagulayan and Gomez each pocketed P60,000 in the three-day competition supported by Hyatt Sports, Bagit Promotions and Negros Hillards Balita.

SALUD: Long wait

JOSHUA Agravante (top), Isidro Villabona and Rodolfo with (from row, from left) Mike Ignacio executive Andrew Han's, city administrator Dominador V. Dumaling Jr. and Mike MVP Pat Gaa-ong.

Roach wants big knockout victory

From page B29

running something more decisive. Marco Antonio Barrera survived 12 rounds against the Gen. Santos City brawler. And Barrera needed a close decision to outgo Juan Manuel Marquez of his super featherweight belt.

This time around, though, feels Pacquiao must stop Diaz to legitimize his status as the world's No. 1 pound-for-pound fighter.

And with Pacquiao needing a little less effort to make the weight this time around, Roach feels the powerful southpaw has the edge over Diaz in almost all aspects and should find little trouble controlling the tempo of the 12-round bout, to be aired by ESPN pay-per-view.

Pacquiao tipped the scales at 139 after his trainer's workout and that's exactly the number both boxer and trainer want to see at the range of their presentation.

"Three long one 130, roadmap running, responding realistic goal (Being 139 a just right, it's also hard to lose weight as quickly)," Pacquiao said.

"It was better than expected," said Roach, who gave Pacquiao the go-signal to take a break on Sunday. "Four pounds still to one week to go, we're going to be all right."

Asked what the Mexican-American Diaz could do to hold Pacquiao's conquest of the 135 lb ranks and assured in a bid to become the first Asian to win four titles in different weight divisions, Roach bluntly replied: "Nothing."

Roach said Pacquiao's speed and power would overwhelm the "Gambler" Diaz.

"Manny's speed may not be the same as when he's 130, but definitely he will be much, much faster than Diaz," Roach explained after watching Pacquiao spar for three rounds each against Aldo Sambrai and Nonito Quilbuyas.

Agravante, Getaruela top Milo-D'guete run

DUMAGUETE CITY—JESSON Agravante of Dumaguete City and Getaruela of Silay, Negros Occidental, was followed home by one-armed Paralympic veteran Isidro Villabona (1:15:03) and Rodolfo (1:15:11).

Getaruela, a native of Cebu, beat Cecilo Ruth Tapia into second place (1:34:45). Marcelo Gilbuena (1:44:06) clinched the qualifying spot over former champ Nilda Pape (1:43:07).

Perennial Milo Marathon participant Sen. Dix Caymanes placed eighth in 2:07:03.

Miss results: M 19-34 yrs.—Men 1st leung (2) 02, 2nd Jesus Tapia (2) 03, 3rd Nilda (2) 04, Michael (2) 05, Jesus (2) 06, Mike Ann Jim (2) 08, Sylvia Gilbuena (2) 09, M. Ellen (2) 10, Michael Tapia, Tapia, Tapia, 50-55 Jose Bernardo, 2. Jesse Langdon.

Sports Shorts

'Frank' ravages PBA, Triple Crowne and baseball sleuth

WINDSTREAK'S LOOSING AND POWER ratings caused by "Typhoon Frank" yesterday forced the Philippine Basketball Association to cancel its Smart Gilas double-header at the Araneta Coliseum.

Organizers of horse racing's Triple Crown series and Baseball Philippines' league also called off scheduled matches.

Red Bull was supposed to shoot for a share of the elimination-round lead against Sta. Lucia, while Manila would take a league-leading 10 win against 4 losses mark, now slated to battle Barangay Ginebra.

Meanwhile, the second leg of the Triple Crown series at Santa Ana Park in Makati was also called off yesterday, pulling prospective back quest for immortality on hold.

The filly would have been the bettors' choice to run the second jewel of the classic, viewing her chance to what could be a 3rd Triple Crown champ in seven years.

"(The race cancellation) put indefinite any preparations of (seeing)," owner Hector Lopez said. Manny R. Castillo

Bong, Paeng steal the show

RP INT'L OPEN

INTERNATIONAL BOWLING HALL OF FAMER Bong Coo and Paeng Nepomuceno came up with big games to grab the spotlight on day 10 of the 37th Philippine International Open tenpin bowling championships at SM Bowling Center in Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

A genuine business owner and secretary general of the Philippine Bowling Congress, Coo finished 1-2-3 in the Class A ladies' division with partners Abbie Cua (1,966), Nenette Sayson (2,958) and Gemma Sorello (2,941).

Cue of MBS-Prime Shrimpers also rolled 6806 in the Graded Masters to rank behind GSIC-BA Lhuillier's Weljie Ty (6819) and unnamed Rizal's trail by two pins over 13600-Pilipinas 89' Peter's Jordyne Sambao to Class A all-events.

Six-time world champion Nepomuceno of PBC-Prime Pearlite narrowly missed scoring the tournament's first perfect game by shooting 299 in the first game of the Open Masters qualifying. He added 256, 256 and 266 for a 981 that put him in ninth spot.

Kuwait's Fahad Ali (934) and Supoh Al-Mutairi (911) led the foreigners' charge in the overseas pool of the Open masters event.

IBA Games Masters titlist Sharon Simmons of Indonesia led the foreign pool in the ladies' Masters with 917. Defending champion Lakshmi Bonnie paced the Israel qualifying with 902, followed by Dyan Constantino (876) and Rimmah Tabora (864).

Competition is expected to peak today with the arrival of the state-built of foreign bowlers.

COO: 1-2-3 rankings

NEPOMUCENO: 299

Cebu, Ilocos Sur cagers arrange finals clash

GAME 1: TODAY (Sunken Gym)
3 p.m.—Siquijor (0-4) vs. Negros (3-1)
4 p.m.—Cebu (3-1) vs. Bohol (3-1)
Tomorrow
3 p.m.—Western Visayas (2-2) vs. Laguna (2-2)
4 p.m.—Pangasinan (3-1) vs. Laguna (2-2)

KING BOMBO GLOBOS (0-5)—GERO and Jose Bonzo has showed separate semifinal trials at the People's Coliseum here yesterday and forged a championship showdown in the Luzon leg of the Liga Filipinas line.

The Sirkus of Cebu (3-1) clubbered the Taipan Batang Global, 127-94, while the Investocracy of Ilocos (3-1) edged the Quezon Huskybelles, 85-79.

Over at the Xavier University gym in Cagayan de Oro, Pagadian and Bacolod pulled off tilting upsets to arrange a 6-day clash in the southern leg.

The Explorers of Pagadian, led by Mark Ato, shocked host and previously unbeaten Misamis Oriental, 83-80, while Bacolod stunned the Tiger Laguna Builders, 104-95.

Ex-pro Stephen Padilla led Cebu with 24 points, including six three-pointers. Bruce Dante added 20.

The Nikon belter away in the second quarter after trailing 22-26 at the end of the first. They outscored the Batang Global, 31-19, in the final canto.

In the other game, Gilbert Malabanan scored 19 points, including the game-winner (see before time expired), to lift the Investocracy past the Red Oil-ers and into the title match.

The winner of the final will be awarded 10 points going in the playoffs. Five points will go to the runner-up, and three points to the third placer.

SPORTSWATCH

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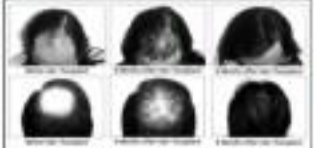

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SPORTS

Russians end Dutch threat

HAREL, ONTUELLAND—RUSSIA SCORED two goals in extra time Saturday to produce the biggest upset so far at the European Championship with a 3-1 win over The Netherlands, which was threatening to make its way to the crown.

Dimitry Tarkhoki and Andrei Arshavin scored within five minutes of each other in the second half of extra time. Roman Pavlyuchenko also scored for Russia, while Rand van Nistelrooy scored for the Dutch in the fifth.

Russia, coached by former Netherlands manager Dick Advocaat, will face either Spain or Italy in the semifinals.

"I don't want to say big words but it is almost a miracle," Hiddink said after hobbling out of his dugout to dance with his players. "It is unbelievable how the boys performed."

Coming off a draining do-or-die game on Wednesday against Sweden, the Russians were stronger than the Dutch team who had sat out the last group game.

"We didn't play football, and never got into the game," Netherlands coach Marco van Basten said.

Tarkhoki ranged toward the far post in the 112th minute and hit a deep cross from Arshavin into the goal with the outside of his left foot. Arshavin scored the final goal in the 116th minute into short-cornered left after Sneijder got and went through the legs of goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

But Nistelrooy had temporarily saved the Dutch fate in the match, proving no one is count lethal from close range. From a free kick by Rafael van der Vaart, he swiveled himself away from target Igor Akinfeev and scored with a blazing header in the far post.

In extra time, the inexperienced Russians hung in and scored their third straight upset victory. And after Germany had beaten the sparkling Portugal and Turkey edged surging Croatia, another summer sun in the making.

There were only a few thousand Russians within scene of triangle among the 30,374 fans, but they kept chanting "Rus-sia" long after the rest of thousands of orange-clad fans had left the stadium. AP

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carmie S. Mamaril

Gov't hikes rice import quota to 2.4M tons

Takes half of private sector allocation

By Jerry N. Basco

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED ITS RICE IMport quota to 2.4 million metric tons this year to further boost the national stockpile of the grain, according to the National Food Authority.

The state-owned, grain-importing agency was earlier allowed to import as much as 2.1 million tons of rice to cover for the projected 1.8 percent shortfall in local production of the staple.

In an interview on Friday, NFA Administrator Jessup F. Navarro clarified that the move was to "ensure sufficient national buffer stocks this year to help stabilize prices in the domestic market."

"Our target is to maintain a 30-day buffer stock until the end of the year," he said.

As a matter of policy, the NFA is tasked to maintain a rice buffer equivalent to 15 days' worth of consumption throughout the year.

CONTINUED ON B2

PRA to revise reclamation project

By Roland W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORity, formerly the Public Estates Authority, is aiming at posting revenues of P50 billion over the next five years as it pushes for a new approach in the development of the 800-hectare Three Islands project that used to be part of the controversial PEA-Amari deal.

PRA general manager and chief executive Andrew Domingo said in an interview that the agency was pursuing the repackaging and repositioning of Three Islands project through a joint venture with either the Government Service Insurance System, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. or the local government of Parañaque City.

The Supreme Court had nullified PEA's contract with Amari Coastal Bay Development Corp. for the implementation of the project and ordered the latter to turn

PRA TO REVISE P2

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CURRENCIES

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As of 5 p.m., June 20, 2008
GOLD: $913.00-914.00
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STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen

INVESTORS HAVE BEEN ADVISED to remain cautious this week given the lingering uncertainties.

AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report that the US Federal Open Mkt Committee will meet this week to decide the fate of US interest rates.

"Market participants are now debating whether the Fed will resume its rate-cut policies and revert to raising interest rates. Whatever the decision will be, it will definitely rock the major markets (that) week," said AB Capital Securities research head Jose Vistan.

"The markets are expecting the US FOMC to take a 'dovish' stance in its monetary policies (this) week. We believe that it will not happen as soon as next week. We agree that the Fed will express a

CAUTIOUS B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

See stock market report on Page B2

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Page 01

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Cautious trading ...

From page B1

hard-line stance on inflation but they will not go so far as to raise interest rates after a series of rate cuts," Varma said.

He said raising interest rates would slow down the US economy to the point of recession.

"And with the longer-term forecasts of rising oil prices, we may have to contend with stagflation," he said.

He added that modest players would also monitor indicators such as consumer confidence and more inflation data.

"For now, investors are quick to go pulling the sell trigger as there are worries that the rise in oil prices and prospects of higher interest rates will derail any chance of a recovery. There are just too many uncertainties out there," Varma said. — Elisabeth Frenchie Lucero

Toward inclusive growth

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

IN A RECENT ROUNDTABLE OF PEJONG economists gathered by the World Bank (WB) Manila office, yet another unique but confounding characteristic of the Philippine economy came to the fore. The first statement in the WB's kickoff presentation said it all: "The Philippines has been one of the slower growing and more inequitable economies in the region in past decades, growing well below the regional average." It further observed that there has been almost in the last five years, but even with higher growth, poverty reduction has not improved and can still slower than the rest of the region, while inequality and unemployment remain high."

Another presentation curbed our disappointing job creation performance in recent years, while still another one gave evidence of increasing concentration (i.e., decreasing competition) in Philippine industries.

The forum was an initial effort by WB to help come up with a strategy for attaining a more "inclusive growth," or one shared more widely by all Filipinos.

Exclusion

In his keynote speech in a past Annual Meeting of the World Bank's Board of Governors years ago, former World Bank President James Wolfensohn focused on the theme of "exclusion." He saw widening financial loss the exclusion of large numbers of people from meaningful participation in economic processes and from partaking of the benefits of economic growth has led to a world of rising inequalities both across and within nations. From this was coined the term "inclusive growth," which has since become a much-used phrase in development circles to describe the kind of economic growth that nations ought to be aspiring for—that is, growth that goes beyond simply rising GDP.

President Ted V. Ramos used to describe it as having a bigger lollipop (size-wise) where everyone gets a bigger piece as well. Others use the imagery of a rising tide lifting all boats. Unfortunately, and as one widely knows, this is not the kind of growth we have been experiencing of late. While we are by no means unique in this, the World Bank still seems to have put its finger on the problem in particularly apt and unusually strong in the Philippines.

Jobless growth

The second WB presentation started with an interesting observation: Philippine GDP growth and employment growth in the past had traditionally moved together up until 2002, when the two graphs began to part ways and GDP growth started leaving job growth behind. This suggests either of two things: One, GDP growth began to be overstated (as job growth understated) around 2002, or two, a structural change happened in the economy that made job growth start lagging behind GDP growth.

Fellow economist Philip Medalla said several others who have been questioning recent GDP/GNP growth figures will naturally give more weight to the first, which believes their doubts on the GDP data. But it is important to consider the second possibility as well and how to deal with it, if it is indeed a key factor to contend with. That is, granting that the GDP growth data are reliable, why might have job growth slowed down, even as aggregate output and income growth reportedly speeded up? How, one might penetrate on the degree of competition in Philippine industries provided possible clues.

Lack of competition

The general observation made was that competition has generally been weak, and in many cases even weakening, whether in the agriculture, industry or services sectors. For agricultural products, are under monopoly/monopsony (single seller/buyer) or oligopoly/oligopsony (few sellers/buyers) market conditions. In rice and corn, NFA has had a traditional monopoly in importation, and domestic trading has been marked by oligopoly. Sugar, coconut, bananas and pineapple are also marked by oligopoly/oligopsony conditions. As a result, small farmers receive lower prices at the farm gate, while consumers pay higher prices in retail.

Manufacturing has become more concentrated, with the top four firms in many key industries taking a growing share of domestic output through time. This has adversely affected the labor market, as larger firms generally employ less workers per unit of output than smaller ones, while lack of competition for workers also drives real wages down (as the reduced demand for services, investment among which are airlines, power firms, ports, etc., government regulation plays a critical role in ensuring broadly beneficial outcomes. But the report euphemistically states that "regulatory capacity and independence are still evolving, and need to be strengthened." Secretary Ibetz Neri would be more blunt: He would say the regulatory agencies have been "captured."

I miss out of that World Bank roundtable feeling somewhat overwhelmed at the complexity of the challenge of pursuing inclusive growth in our Philippine setting. One thing was clear: The way out is well beyond economics. Political will among our lawmakers and leaders is both prevalent and business leaders—to do what serves the broader interests of Filipinos is key. Sadly, this kind of political will remains one rare commodity in the Philippines, and in the end, it is up to all of us, as we exercise our democratic rights, to help put it in much greater supply.

Comments welcome at chabito@post.com.ph.

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Citi to merge thrift bank, personal loan unit in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN FINANCIAL services giant Citibank is set to merge its thrift bank and personal loan subsidiaries in the Philippines, and hint the move was on its three-months as part of a strategy to boost its domestic consumer banking business.

The planned merger of Citibank Savings (Citisavings) and Citi Financial will create a $1-billion (P43-billion) entity with P10 billion in assets.

Citi country manager Hisath Jassim told reporters at a recent briefing that the merger would expand customer portfolio and boost overall business operations.

"In Citisavings, we have a lot of deposits and very few assets and in Citi Financial, we have a lot of assets and no deposits. If we put them together, we get a more efficient funding," Jassim said.

With one system and one management structure, he added that the merger would translate to cost savings.

"We can cross-sell easily because it's the same legal entity. So, it's good for the company in terms of funding and good for the customers," he said.

Citibank acquired Citi Financial, which has 15 branches, about six years ago although the lending company has been in operation for many years before that.

Landbank seeks control of Picop

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LAND BANK OF THE Philippines has sought court approval to temporarily take majority control of listed paper and plywood maker Picop Resources Corp. under a proposed rehabilitation petition, a well-informed banking source said.

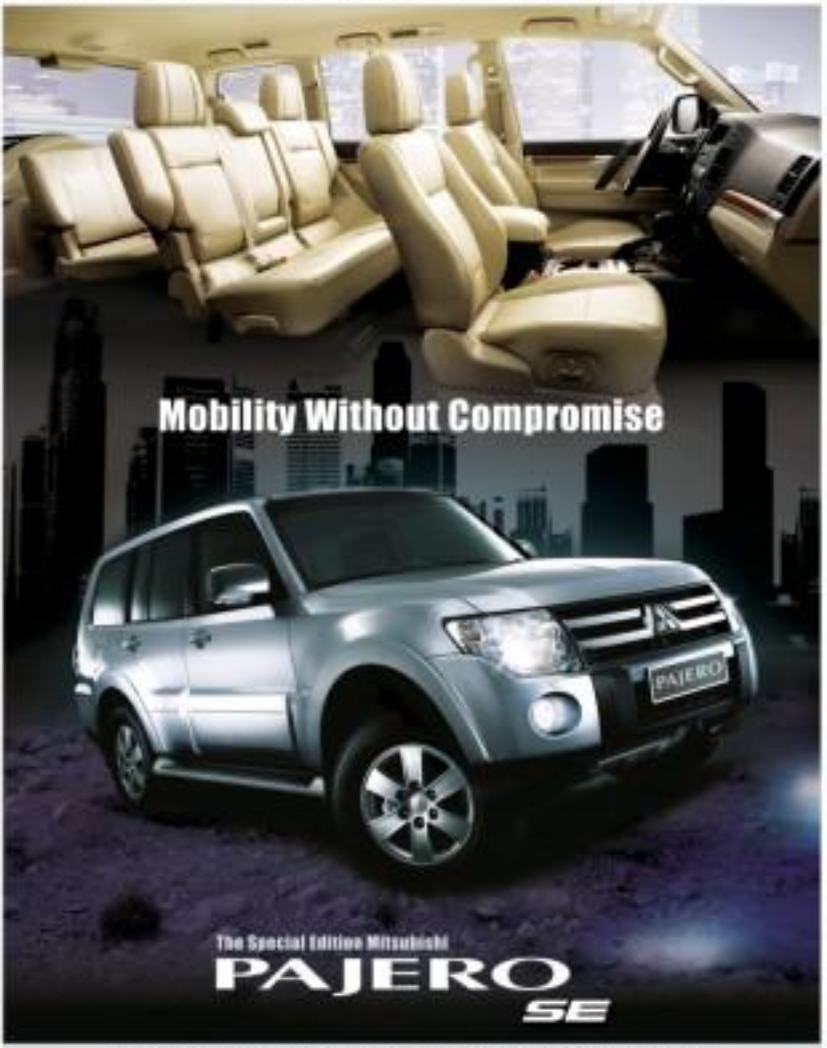
The source said the proposed ownership would be temporary after the conversion of some of the company's debt into equity.

The source added that the bank would be willing to sell to a white knight willing to infuse equity into Picop to restore its functions.

The proposed rehabilitation will also involve the infusion of fresh equity of about P1.42 billion for Picop's working capital.

Under its rehabilitation proposal before the Makati regional trial court, Landbank has proposed the restructuring of Picop's P1.8-billion debt over a 15-year period.

The source also said that the bank was able to secure a stay order from the court on its rehabilitation petition last June 5 preventing the dissipation of Picop's assets. A hearing is set on July 30.



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Import bill projection jacked up, export goal cut

Bangko Sentral blames soaring prices of crude, rice

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas says the country's import bill surging this year due to skyrocketing fuel and food prices.

In a mid-year assessment by the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board last week, the BSP jacked up its import bill growth projection for this year to 18 percent from the 7 percent set by the Interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee, as it scaled growth outlook on export receipts to 8 percent from 9 percent.

Import growth in the Philippines, whose top exports are electronics which use a lot of imported inputs, is usually regarded by economists as an advanced indicator of how export earnings would fare in the months ahead. In this case, however, the projected massive import bill is driven more by high oil prices of oil and rice, not by an extraordinary increase in the purchase of raw materials used by export-oriented industries.

The new forecasts assumed that oil prices would remain high for the rest of the year, contrary to earlier expectations that the US-led global slowdown may allow crude oil prices to soften below $100 per barrel.

The central bank has now assumed that oil prices based on Dubai plats ... which is $6.88 per barrel cheaper than the light, sweet crude traded in US futures ... would average at $115 $125 per barrel this year.

Aside from being a net oil importer, the Philippines is also the world's largest rice importer and as such, it is extremely affected by the surging global prices of rice.

A looming recession in the US and its impact on the rest of the world are widely expected to slow down the country's export earnings.

The new export and import forecasts will soon be submitted to the DBCC, which has recently scaled down its outlook on domestic economic growth this year to 5.7 6.3 percent from the original target of 6.3-7 percent.

The BSP's latest assessment is still more optimistic than the several members early this year, based on figures from the National Statistics Office for the first quarter, total imports grew by 20 percent to $13.81 billion while exports expanded by a meager 2.7 percent to $11.34 billion. This translated to a trade deficit of about $2 billion for the three-month period.

A higher trade deficit seems present on the peso-dollar exchange rate as larger importation means higher demand for dollars.

For the purpose of fiscal and macroeconomic planning, the BSP and the national government have assumed that the exchange rate would remain "broadly stable" within a range of 42-43 to the dollar this year.

The peso hit an eight-year peak of 40.25 to $1 on February this year, but has lost steam since then as the uptick in inflation drove investors out of local stock and bond markets. The peso, which gained nearly 19 percent against the dollar last year on strong foreign portfolio inflows and overseas Filipino workers' remittances, is now trading near 44.50/$1, losing about 7 percent so far this year and becoming the third worst performing currency in non-new in the South Korean won and the Indian rupee.

A weaker peso bodes well for exporters and households supported by overseas remittances. But now that the central bank can no longer rely on a strong domestic currency to temper inflation, everyone now feels the pinch from rising rates amid a slowing economy.

Not despite the widening trade deficit and the recent slowdown in foreign investment inflows, the country has a steady supply of foreign exchange coming from Filipino workers abroad.

It was earlier reported that the BSP sees cash remittances from overseas Filipinos hitting a new high of $16.49 billion this year, up by 10 percent over a year ago.

Of these total overseas remittances projected for this year, about $13.9 billion was expected to be coursed through the banking system, up from than the $14.49 billion worth of inflows recorded last year, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr said.

DEAR PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO:

We wish you all the best as you embark on another investment-generation mission for our country during your Working Visit to the United States from June 23 to 29.

In particular, we wish you good luck in your meetings with the leaders of the American Chamber of Commerce and the US-ASEAN Business Council as part of your effort to project the Philippines as an excellent destination for foreign direct investments.

In support of your vital mission in this trip, Mrs. President, we call for:

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... on the innuendo-based assault on the credibility of the Court of Appeals and its members in the wake of the battle for control of the country's largest power distributor.

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World Bank open to lending RP $80M-$100M

By Michelle V. Baron

THE WORLD BANK SAID IT WAS WILLING to grant the Philippines' request for a loan worth $80 million to $100 million, which would be used to finance the distribution of direct cash subsidies to the poor.

Bert Hofman, World Bank country director for the Philippines, said the bank was giving its full support to the Philippine government's plan to implement the so-called Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT), which was aimed at easing the burden of poor families caused by soaring fuel and commodity prices.

Under the program, the government will provide cash allowances to selected beneficiary households provided they send their children to school and visit health centers regularly.

The government, led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, has started conducting surveys in poor communities to identify the program beneficiaries. The mechanics and the amount of subsidies to be granted to each household will also be determined by the DSWD.

Initially, the government targets to grant subsidies to 300,000 poor families, and allocates for them the $80 million to $100 million that will be obtained from the World Bank (about P3.3 billion to P4.4 billion at an exchange rate of $1:P44).

"The Conditional Cash Transfer Program is not just simply about giving direct cash. It is also a developmental program intended to give people better health services and education," Hofman told reporters in an interview after his meeting with economic officials last Friday in Manila.

By requiring recipients of the subsidies to send their children to school and visit health centers, the government will be able to promote education and regular health checkup.

Hofman said government officials intended to start the Conditional Cash Transfer Program this year.

The government could borrow more than $100 million from the World Bank to fund the program, as the country was still far from hitting the loan ceiling set for it by the bank.

Under the ongoing Country Assistance Program of the World Bank, the Philippines can borrow as much as $700 million a year to fund development projects and programs. So far this year, Philippines has tapped only $200 million, Hofman said.

PRA to revise ...

From page B1

home the cost incurred by the latter.

The high courts declared as unconstitutional the transfer (ownership of land from PEA to Amari through a deal that has since been popularly referred to as "the grandmother of all scams."

Domingo said that since preliminary work started in the 1990s, 157 ha have been reclaimed, but the entire area had given rise to a 179-ha perimeter that Manila Bay has proclaimed as a protected mangrove habitat and ecotourism area.

"We aim at reclaiming a total of 250 ha by 2009," she said.

Domingo added that the land development plan would have to take into consideration the preserved area where mangroves provide a sanctuary for wild birds.

At the same time, the former chief of the Bureau of Immigration said Amari has to be billed PRA at least P30 billion, which the agency would verify and audit.

"PRA intends to reimburse the audited amount as part of project cost to be charged to whoever will implement the project or sell/occupy and use the site," she said.

Domingo said the revitalization of PEA projects outside the Bay City — where the SM Mall of Asia stands — was also being made in the wake of the PRA's declaring 2007 as a "banner year" as it registered a record revenue of at least P1.3 billion.

She said the PRA generated P500 million in net payments last year and has remitted about P500 million to the National Treasury in 2007.

Splash declares cash dividend

PERSONAL CARE COMPANY SPLASH Corp. declared P134 million in cash dividend for shareholders on record as of July 8, 2008. It will be paid on July 30.

The dividend declaration was announced during the company's annual stockholders meeting on Saturday.

In the same meeting, Splash president and CEO Jessie Sucliano reported to stockholders the 30 percent growth in net income posted by the company in 2007 to P271.23 million from year-ago level.

This was attributed to strong growth in sales of beauty and personal care products in 2007, topping P3 billion, which 21 percent higher than year-ago level. Skin care products accounted for a third of net sales.

Net operating income grew by 44 percent to P317 million.

Sucliano said the income growth could also be attributed to the introduction of 14 new products during the year, which contributed 16 percent of total sales.

The trend continued with a 16-percent increase in net income in the first quarter of 2008 to P44.6 million from year-ago level. Net sales went up by 7 percent in the first three months, boosted by strong sales of new products.

"The success of the new products we launched in the second half of 2007 prove that Splash is on track with its growth strategies. We will continue to intensify our brand building initiatives while introducing more innovative products in the health and wellness category that will be launched this year."

DOLE's electronic recruitment system cited

OFFICIALS OF THE MANILA ECONOMIC and Cultural Office cited the efforts of Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito Roque in helping promote the country's electronic selection and recruitment system in major Taiwanese employers.

Rodolfo Salvador, labor director for labor affairs, said Roque made a pitch for the new system, under project of Metro and DOLE, when he presided over an employers' conference on the Special Hiring Program for Taiwan during his recent visit to Taipei on June 13 to 17.

During the conference, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration launched the electronic selection and recruitment system which is matched by the e-verification system of Metro Labor in Taipei.

Salvador said the employers' conference was attended by Taiwanese employers who were hiring new Filipino workers. Currently, more than 90,000 Filipinos are working in Taiwan.

Metro and DOLE have jointly initiated the system to maintain monitor registry or e-selection and recruitment system for Taiwan's major employers. Highly skilled Filipino workers, including those who will soon be finishing their employment contracts in Taiwan, are encouraged to register with the database. The registry aims to market workers for possible jobs in leading industries in Taiwan and the Philippines.

Gov't ... From page B1

and to double this volume to 50 days' worth during the four months. National daily consumption of rice is estimated at 55,000 tons.

The Food Agency Commissioner was first and Gov agreed to raise the import quota two weeks ago, Navarro added.

He explained that initially the government was allowed to import 2.1 million tons of rice while the private sector was given the go-ahead to bring in 800,000 tons.

"The government took half of the allocation for the private sector since grains traders are not importing," he noted.

In the last four rice auctions conducted by the private sector, traders continued to drum the opportunity to import duty-free rice, put off by high international prices and competition from government-subsidized sales in the domestic market.

Offers in last Friday's tender brought the total importation by the private sector so far to only 37,200 MT, a fraction of the 963,000 tons that had been allowed by the NFA.

This is the second time that the government has raised the rice import quota for 2008.

In March, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap announced then the NFA council had given its management the authority to import up to 2.1 million tons, up from the initial plan of 1.6 million tons.

Yap explained that the increase to volume was meant to prepare the country for a "crisis" commodity exposure, precisely that we may experience when the demand for rice continues the way it is."

Given the price spikes of other commodities such as wheat and corn, Yap had said that the Department of Agriculture expected more Filipinos to consume more rice, in place of bread and pan-de-sal or corn, for example.

By increasing the import quota, Yap said the government could pump in more rice in the country's stockpile to meet the widening demand gap.

Local gaming firm eyes new joint venture

In talks with Asianlogic

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

LONDON-LISTED ONLINE casino firm Asianlogic Ltd. is planning a joint venture with local gaming company Leisure and Resorts World Corp. (LRWC).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, LRWC said its board approved a resolution authorizing the company to enter into a memorandum of agreement with Asianlogic on the formation of a local company to be engaged in a land-based sports book or sports betting operation.

LRWC will acquire a stake in the new firm by issuing 642.86 million new shares at P3.50 each over six secondment periods presented.

The issuance of LRWC shares will be subject to the joint venture's attaining projected net income targets over the six semi-annual periods.

LRWC's board will submit the MOA to shareholders for approval at its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 10.

The board also authorized company president Alfredo Benitez to sign the MOA to behalf of the corporation.

"The will technically bring LRWC in doing gaming in the region," Benitez said.

The proposed acquisition represents a 45-percent premium over LRWC's last traded price of P2.98 a share.

"The group has a presence in Manila, China, and other countries in the region. We are interested in this partnership and it will open up markets for the company and opportunities to the gaming industry," LRWC investor relations head Alfredo Reyes said.

Asianlogic is listed on the London Alternative Investment Market and is an active participant in the online and land-based gaming industry with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific markets. Asianlogic is involved in the development, operation, management and marketing of online casinos, online poker, online and land-based sports betting, land-based slot machine and server-based gaming, including live casino streaming casino gaming across the region.

Asianlogic operates land-based sports betting outlets in the Philippines under its "MegaSportsWorld" brand.

LRWC, on the other hand, owns/mega operates Leisure and Resorts Corp. and Internet gaming firm First Cagayan Leisure and Resort Corp.

DOTC pursues ₱300-M network deal

By Rica T. Chikiamco

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and Communications is setting up a P300-million virtual private network as a "pilot test" for a government-wide network, officials said.

"The Dtp EXOT (information infrastructure Project) will be using private telecommunications services and the existing facilities of Telsf (Telecommunications Office)," DOTC Assistant Secretary Glenn Isaniz said in a briefing.

"It would be like a pilot run for a government-wide broadband network," Isaniz added.

Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza earlier said that the project would be used by the department and its attached agencies.

According to Telsf, the Dtp will be a VPN for voice and data "using private sector hardware capacity with an IP (Internet Protocol) core and data center managed by Telsf."

The last rule connections "will be a combination of government and private sector capacities."

The rollout is expected to be completed by mid-2006.

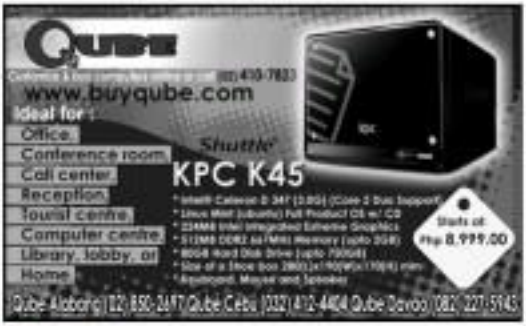
DOTC has long wanted to connect government agencies and initiate interoperability between their systems. It also said in February this year that it wanted to modernize Telsf, especially its broadband capacity, so that its existing structures and equipment would not go to waste.

Telsf facilities would later been modernized and used as part of the National Broadband Network (NBN) project, but the $329-million project was scrapped amid an uproar over alleged graft and bribery.

Telsf offers fax, voice and telegram services nationwide to the public for minimal fees.

Telsf has operations in Metro Manila and is so-called missionary arm in the provinces where telcos are not present.

Created in 1947 as the Bureau of Telecommunications and reinvented as Telsf in 1987, Telsf is separate from the National Telecommunications Commission, which earns fees regulating telcos, broadcasting companies and Internet service providers.



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Gurango Software opens Singapore office

By Roland W. Durongo

HOME-GROWN MULTINATIONAL Gurango Software Corp. said it had formally launched its Singapore office as part of its continued overseas expansion program.

Gurango Software, which develops and distributes products and services for the Microsoft ecosystem, acquired international firm Modern Systems in 2007, subsuming the latter's operations in Singapore, Australia and South Africa.

In a statement, company founder and chief executive officer Joey Gurango said the firm recently completed implementation of a new brand identity for the combined company.

In Singapore, the Gurango software office is in the 8-Connect@Redhill office complex in the Bukit Merah business district.

Now carrying the brand Gurango Software, the Singapore firm distributes and implements Microsoft Dynamics GP 10, Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft CRM.

Also, the firm is engaged in selling, implementing, and customizing Microsoft Dynamics as well as developing a suite of proprietary applications that integrate directly into all of the MS Dynamics products.

These applications include Imara BIR, a payslip human capital management system; and DynamicPay, an international payroll platform.

BIR steps up drive vs tax evaders

Audit of individual, corporate taxpayers ongoing

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue said it was prepared to file tax evasion charges against thousands of taxpayers—both individuals and corporate entities—that failed in the audit of tax payments in the past years.

The failure of these taxpayers to pay their dues resulted in an estimated revenue loss of P121 billion for the government.

Such a move, according to Revenue Commissioner Jaime Serra, would put teeth in the bureau's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program and help the government meet its revenue goal for the year.

In a text message to reporters, the media relations office of the BIR quoted Serra as saying that the bureau had adopted a so-called tax evasion system to divert people from violations in tax collection.

Under the system, the BIR selects third-party sources to check on the accuracy of taxes remitted by individuals, especially professionals and self-employed, and corporate taxpayers. Third-party sources of information include clients of taxpayers subjected to audit.

Those shown, particularly big companies that are required by law to withhold a certain percentage of their suppliers' income and value-added tax liabilities arising from the sale of goods or services, are periodically report to the BIR the amount of taxes they withheld.

The discrepancy between the declared income of the supplier and its true income as seen in the report submitted by its clients will prompt the BIR to verify the suspected tax deficiency. The BIR, if convinced that there were unpaid taxes, will send a letter notice to the taxpayer, inviting payment of the tax deficiency.

The BIR said it was still in the process of determining the exact number of taxpayers who failed in the tax audits, but said there were thousands of them.

The BIR said it had already sent notices to some of these taxpayers, informing them of their tax-payment deficiencies and asking them to pay at once. Delinquent taxpayers who would not respond to the BIR's queries would be priority in efforts to intensify the RATE program, according to the bureau.

Unpaid assessments, including findings under the TEU (tax reconciliation system) will be subject of enforcement action under the RATE program," Tiedo said in the statement.

The BIR vows indeed to collect P665 billion in taxes this year to help the government fund its rising expenditure requirements. Revenue-collecting agencies like the BIR and the Bureau of Customs were told to implement measures to beef up the nine-trillion-peso spending need for additional social services in the country.

The Arroyo administration earlier announced it would temporarily grant subsidies to the poorest of the poor to help them cope with rising fuel and commodity prices. The government already started the distribution of P500 to each electricity bill-line user—monthly electricity consumption is 100 kWh or less.

The Department of Finance, another agency of the BIR, also said concerned officials approved the granting of health and education subsidies to selected poor families.

BAGAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
(1st Legislative District)
(Bagao City)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Bagao City Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2008, intends to apply the sum (and individual cost(s)) being the Approved Budget for the contract with the proponents under Invitation to Bid for the Supply and Installation of Water Meters and Accessories of the BCC 2008 Construction Program.
2. The Bagao City Water District now invites bids from accredited and eligible bidders to:

Particular	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bid Security (1% of ABC)	Cost of Bid Documents
1	13mm(1/2") x 0.5 (7.5 LPM)	1,100,000.00	11,000.00	1,000.00
2	15 mm (5/8") x 0.5 (10 LPM)			
	13mm(1/2") x 0.5 (7.5 LPM)	1,200,000.00	12,000.00	1,000.00
3	13mm(1/2") x 0.5 (7.5 LPM)	1,200,000.00	12,000.00	1,000.00
4	100 mm (4") x 0.5 (30 LPM)	3,600,000.00	36,000.00	1,000.00
5	150mm(6") x 0.5 (7.5 LPM)	4,500,000.00	45,000.00	1,000.00
6	200mm(8") x 0.5 (7.5 LPM)	5,400,000.00	54,000.00	1,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using Non-Discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bagao City Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the Bagao City Water District upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php1,000.00 on July 23, 2008. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Bagao City Water District, provided that Bidders shall pay the cost of the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
7. The Bagao City Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Bagao City Water District
Attn: BAC
3rd Floor Bldg., Bagao Water Plaza
Tel. No. (123) 456-7890
E-mail add: bcwd@bagao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. 123-4567
Website: www.bagao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ERNESTO V. BARRIOS
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee-3

(PBA) June 23, 2008

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
(BSP)
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible Philippine Contractors / Consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Project No.	Name of Project	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Delivery Period
1	Information Technology Equipment Facility (ITEF) Project	• 20 units Thin Client PC • 4 units Printer - Laser • 4 units Printer - Dot Matrix • 2 units Scanner • 2 units Printer - Laser (Network) • 1 unit CD Projector • 1 unit Power Supply • 1 unit UPS	Php2,500,000.00	30 calendar days
2	Power Generator Sets (GS) Project	• 2 units 15 KVA • Brand New • Single Cylinder • Diesel • Air-cooled • With installation, labor and materials included • Three year warranty • Inc. Supply, Installation and Test Service Offices • 2 units 15 KVA • Brand New • Single Cylinder • Diesel • Air-cooled • With installation, labor and materials included • Three year warranty • Inc. Supply, Installation and Test Service Offices	Php2,500,000.00	30 calendar days

Prospective bidders should have an experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The complete sets of specifications for Project No. 1 can be obtained from Philippine Bidding Documents (PBD) at the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00. The fee for the Philippine Bidding Documents for Project No. 2 may shall can not be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, provided that bidders shall pay the cost of the Philippine Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

All participants shall be given equal opportunity to purchase the Philippine Bidding Documents. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Bids and Awards Committee
A. Mabini St., Malate
Manila
Telefax No. 123-4567
E-mail add: bsp@bsp.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ANTONIO B. MORALES
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PBA) June 23, 2008

Pre-need sales down 21.8%

SALES OF PRE-NEED PLANS fell by 21.8% percent in the first five months of the year to P6.4 billion from P8.19 billion in the same period last year.

Of the total, pension plans accounted for 51 percent or P3.28 billion. This, however, was lower by 36.3 percent than the P5.15 billion for the same period last year.

Sales of life plans posted the second biggest sales with a share of 27 percent of the total.

Education plans' share of the pie was 11.7 percent but sales posted by this segment fell 47.7 percent to P748.9 million from P1.43 billion last year.

The life share, industry sales fell 24.84 percent to P1.26 billion from P1.67 billion in the same month last year.

Pension plans was lower by 11 percent to P868 million to May from P1.116 billion in the same month's last year.

Education plans dropped 7 percent to P250 million from P268.7 million, while life plans grew 37 percent to P922.8 million in May this year from P696 million last year. E.S. Lacson

PHILIPPINE HEALTHINSURANCE CORPORATION
(PHIC)
(Citystate Centre Building, 709 Shipyard Corner Industry Road, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
For Various PHILHEALTH Regional Offices

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible Philippine Contractors / Distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Project No.	Name of Project	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Delivery Period
1	Information Technology Equipment Facility (ITEF) Project	• 20 units Thin Client PC • 4 units Printer - Laser • 4 units Printer - Dot Matrix • 2 units Scanner • 2 units Printer - Laser (Network) • 1 unit CD Projector • 1 unit Power Supply • 1 unit UPS	Php2,500,000.00	30 calendar days
2	Power Generator Sets (GS) Project	• 2 units 15 KVA • Brand New • Single Cylinder • Diesel • Air-cooled • With installation, labor and materials included • Three year warranty • Inc. Supply, Installation and Test Service Offices • 2 units 15 KVA • Brand New • Single Cylinder • Diesel • Air-cooled • With installation, labor and materials included • Three year warranty • Inc. Supply, Installation and Test Service Offices	Php2,500,000.00	30 calendar days

Prospective bidders should have an experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The complete sets of specifications for Project No. 1 can be obtained from Philippine Bidding Documents (PBD) at the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00. The fee for the Philippine Bidding Documents for Project No. 2 may shall can not be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, provided that bidders shall pay the cost of the Philippine Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

All participants shall be given equal opportunity to purchase the Philippine Bidding Documents. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Citystate Centre Building
709 Shipyard Corner Industry Road
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Metro Manila
Telefax No. 123-4567
E-mail add: bac@philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER T. ARCINAS
BAC Chairperson

(PBA) June 23, 2008

PHIC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1 Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 830-0001 to 47 local 1704
Direct Line: 840-1414 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1415

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PHIC Exploration Corporation (PHIC EC), through its Corporate Budget of 2008 contained therein the sum of Two Billion Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php2,500,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), to implement under contract for the SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ONE UNIT (1) TRUCK SCALE FOR PHIC EXPLORATION CORPORATION'S COAL TERMINAL (the "Project") located in Langad, City of Naga, Cebu. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

PHIC EC now invites bids from eligible bidders for the SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ONE UNIT (1) TRUCK SCALE FOR PHIC EXPLORATION CORPORATION (PHIC EC) NAGA COAL TERMINAL.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using Non-Discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens and organizations, pursuant to the Build-Operate-Transfer Law (Commonwealth Act 138) (R.A. 7718). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo a post-qualification stage in order to finally determine whether the bidder is qualified to perform the contract in accordance with the pre-qualification criteria and other requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification process.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from PHIC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Magsalin) starting June 23, 2008 upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on July 10, 2008, 10:00 A.M. at the PHIC EC Naga Coal Terminal, Langad, City of Naga.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PHIC EC's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), 1 Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City not later than 2:00 P.M. on July 24, 2008. The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

PHIC EC reserves the rights to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.phic.ec.com.ph and in the PBDB website at www.philippinebidboard.com.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEO C. MAGSALIN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PBA) June 23, 2008

National Power Corporation
(NPC)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply of Materials, Labor, Delivery, Erection/Installation, Test and Commissioning of Line Arm Distribution Line Assembly for the Electrification of Four (4) Municipalities in Agusan del Sur Province (Phase I)

San Francisco I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SFELAPCO I)
Trunk Island, Barangay Unidos (Poblacion), San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
(c/o Engineering Department - Lapinigan Office)

IFB No. SFELAPCO I-2008-01

The National Power Corporation (NPC) invites all interested Bidders to submit its sealed bid proposal for the Supply of Materials, Labor, Delivery, Erection/Installation, Test and Commissioning of 132 kV Distribution Line Assembly for the Electrification of Four (4) Municipalities in Agusan del Sur Province (Phase I) under the Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ASELCO) Electrification Project, as per Invitation to Bid (IFB) No. SFELAPCO I-2008-01. The Project is located in Agusan del Sur and is described briefly as follows: (1) Supply of Materials, Labor, Delivery, Erection/Installation, Test and Commissioning of 132 kV Distribution Line Assembly with a total length of 1.5 km; (2) Supply of Materials, Labor, Delivery, Erection/Installation, Test and Commissioning of 69 kV Distribution Line Assembly with a total length of 1.5 km; and (3) Supply of Materials, Labor, Delivery, Erection/Installation, Test and Commissioning of 69 kV Distribution Line Assembly with a total length of 1.5 km.

The Project is to be completed within the contract time specified in the Bid Data Sheet.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the San Francisco I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SFELAPCO I) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the San Francisco I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SFELAPCO I) upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Eligibility Bidding requirements shall consist of Activity and Entity.

Contract Number	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
SFELAPCO I-2008-01	Supply of Materials, Labor, Delivery, Erection/Installation, Test and Commissioning of 132 kV Distribution Line Assembly for the Electrification of Four (4) Municipalities in Agusan del Sur Province (Phase I)	Php[illegible]

Activity	Schedule / Time
1. Publication / Posting of Invitation to Bid	June 23, 2008
2. Issuance and Sale of Bidding Documents	June 23 to July 10, 2008
3. Pre-Bid Conference	July 4, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Project I) July 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Project II)
4. Site Inspection	July 4, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Project I) July 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Project II)
5. Bid Opening	July 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Project I) July 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Project II)
6. Bid Evaluation	2 days (Project I) 3 days (Project II)
7. Post-Qualification, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed and other procurement stages	Refer to RA 9184

Bid Documents will be available in prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php[illegible] for Project I and Php[illegible] for Project II at the Philippine PBDC in Quezon.

Philippine reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Philippine reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject any and all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) LEONARDO P. [illegible]
Bids Chairperson

(PBA) June 23, 2008

RP takes step closer to setting up credit bureau

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS MOVING CLOSER TO setting up the much-awaited credit information agency that will make it easier for banks and financial institutions to detect credit risks.

But hurdles on a version recently passed by the Lower House on third reading, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, a major advocate of the Credit Information Systems Act (CIsA), would not have a stake in the P400-million central credit corporation...a departure from earlier versions that called on the central bank to take a prominent role in the proposed agency.

Congress had earmarked P400 million for the government to take a 60 percent stake in the credit corporation, but the Securities and Exchange Commission was assigned to be the lead agency instead of the BSP.

The CISA seeks to create a central credit information agency that will collect and provide reliable, standardized and updated information on the credit history and financial conditions of all borrowers, whether individual, corporate or local government units.

"The operations and services of a credit information system can be expected to greatly improve the overall availability of credit expressly to micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises; provide mechanisms to make credit more cost-effective, and reduce the economic dependence on collateral to secure credit facilities," the consolidated bill said.

The reliable credit information system will also enable financial institutions to reduce their overall credit risk, contributing to a healthier and more stable financial system," it added.

The Cisa, authored by Reps. Juan Edgardo Angara (lone district of Aurora), Luis Villafuerte (2nd district, Camarines Sur) and Jaime Lopez (2nd district, Manila), will now be elevated to the Congress Bicameral Conference Committee.

Asked about the Lower House version, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said he would leave it up to Congress to harmonize the framework for this key financial market reform.

The Cisa will require all banks, quasi-banks, their affiliates and subsidiaries, including insurance companies, credit card companies or any entities providing credit, to submit basic credit data and updates to the credit corporation.

Basic credit data refer to "positive" and "negative" information submitted by a borrower when applying for a loan, but excluding confidential information on bank deposits and client funds.

"Negative" credit information refers to data like defaults, adverse court judgments relating to debts and reports on bankruptcy, insolvency, petition or orders on suspension of payments.

To date, the Bankers Association of the Philippines has a data-sharing facility that is limited to so-called negative information. In general, banks are still hesitant to share information on good borrowers as they fear this will reduce their competitive edge. But banking regulations believe that many banks could have avoided risky loan exposures if they were made more aware of borrowers' outstanding liabilities to other banks.

Under the bill, the negative information on a borrowers' will remain in the database of the corporation for a maximum of three years from the date when the negative information was recorded through payment or liquidation of debt or through compromise settlements or court decisions that exonerate the borrower.

But the Cisa shall now require the reporting of "positive" information, such as timely repayments or nondelinquency.

On the equity ownership in the central credit information corporation, the bill mandates that the remaining 40 percent be held by "qualified investors", which shall be limited to industry associations of banks, quasi-banks and other credit-related associations including associations of consumers. No single interest group, however, will be allowed to own more than 10 percent of total stock.

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PHILEX MINING CORPORATION
Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

May 14, 2008

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of PHILEX MINING CORPORATION will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the B. C. G. E Ballroom, 4th Floor, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Avenue corner EDB Avenue, Quezon City. The order of business thereat will be as follows:

1. Proof of required notice of the meeting;
2. Proof of the presence of a quorum;
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous stockholders' meeting and action thereon;
4. Reading of annual reports and action thereon;
5. Ratification and approval of the other acts of the Board of Directors and executive officers during the year 2007;
6. Appointment of independent auditors;
7. Appointment of election inspectors to serve until the close of the next annual meeting;
8. Election of directors;
9. Other matters.

For the purpose of the meeting, only stockholders of record as the close of business on April 10, 2008 will be entitled to vote thereat.

Any stockholder who cannot attend the meeting in person and desires to be represented thereat is requested to date and sign the proxy enclosed herewith and mail it back using the return envelope. The proxy should be mailed in time so as to be received by the Corporate Secretary on or before June 16, 2008, which is the deadline for submission of proxies.

Minutes of the last annual stockholders' meeting and resolutions of the Board of Directors will be available for examination during office hours at the office of the Corporate Secretary.

Please bring some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company I.D. in order to facilitate registration, which will start at 10:00 noon.

BARBARA ANNE C. MCCULLOCH
Corporate Secretary

NOTE:
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL STOCKHOLDERS BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING. Stockholders who will not be able to attend in person SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SIGN, DATE, and MAIL the accompanying form of proxy in the envelope provided for this purpose. Proxies may be revoked at any time prior to the meeting. No proxy, if not marked, confers the power and vote the shares in question.

The prompt return of proxies will save the company the expense of further request for proxies in order to ensure a quorum.

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ANNUAL CALL CENTER CONFERENCE & EXPO 2008

JULY 23-24

SMX CONVENTION CENTER
SM MOA COMPLEX
PASAY CITY
PHILIPPINES

www.ccap.ph

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OPERATIONS

SOLUTIONS

PEOPLE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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On-site rate	Php 6000	Php 3500	On-site rate	Php 10000	Php 6000
Regular rate on or before July 22	PHP 5000	PHP 4200	Regular rate on or before July 22	PHP 9000	PHP 5000
Early Bird rate on or before June 30	PHP 3800	PHP 2800	Early Bird rate June 10 - 30	PHP 7200	PHP 4000

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BUSINESS

BSP to soon withhold 2% tax on gold sales

By Amy R. Remo

SAVINGS BOND SECRETARY LETO SERVIDA said last week that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would soon withhold a 2-percent excise tax on the gold sales of small-scale miners.

"With our concerted efforts, the BSP is moving on of full collection of taxes. That's almost P500 million easily [in 2008] when small-scale gold mining had reached P26.1 billion. Imagine how much was lost before," Servida told reporters.

Last year, gold production reached 39,644 kilograms and was valued at P40.66 billion. Of this volume, the bulk came from small-scale gold mines, which produced 32,202 kilograms worth P33.1 billion, according to data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"The BSP is a logical choice to withhold the tax as small-scale miners are required under law to sell all the gold they produce to the BSP."

Arienza said that by getting the BSP to collect the tax, a would be easier for the government to track all the gold extracted and traded in the country.

"The BSP ... holds a government position having full information relative to the amount of sales generated by these small-scale miners," Arienza added.

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When companies tighten their belts

By Margie Quiroga Espino and Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS ONE THING FOR PRICES at the pump to go up once in a while, but definitely quite another when they go up practically every week. And hikes are not just by a few centavos, but sometimes by outright P1 a liter.

And as the sun-crude oil prices are soaring, from about $86 in February to around $130 at the end of May, households and companies in the Philippines have had to urgently implement measures to cope with runaway crude prices.

Wild oil price fluctuations wreak havoc on operations as companies greatly depend on diesel and gasoline to run their businesses.

Business Mirror features how some of the leading companies in the country are saving on costs, ranging from the simple like turning off appliances when not in use to the complex, such as shifting to solar-powered equipment.

Jollibee Foods Corp.

Energy and Water Management Initiatives

Part of the Jollibee Group's water management practice is the use of hygienic urinal bowl utensils in our stores. This odorless facility uses a special liquid sealant to prevent odors from escaping, and funnel pure urine down the drain.

Each waterless urinal saves around 120,000 liters of water a year.

Energy management initiatives allow us to conserve electricity in our store operations. Our kitchens are equipped with powered roof ventilators. Fresh air is sucked in from our roofs, water is conserved but dry air is still fresh and air. Warm air from the outside is drawn through wet filter pads, and temperature is lowered through the evaporative process, producing cool air that is released by fans into the room.

Through this facility, we are able to reduce our use of air conditioners, and save around 25,000 kilowatt-hours of energy a year with every unit.

Another mechanism the Jollibee Group has to its stores is the heat recovery water heater that produces hot water without using electricity. It simply connects to the store's air conditioning unit, traps the excess heat emitted by its refrigerant, and reuses it to circulate hot water to the pipes.

This practically eliminates the use of electric water heaters for washing and cleaning. In the process, it also improves the air conditioners' efficiency. The savings are equivalent to 12,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year per unit.

Since conventional exhausts are necessary in our cooking operations, we use variable speed drives in our stores to conserve electricity. This means control automatically reduces the speed of the fans during off-peak hours when less food is cooked. This is triggered by thermostat sensors that detect lower temperatures in the kitchen. It saves us around 34,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per motor per year.

Globe Telecom

We continue to seek ways to improve our cost model. In line with this, the company has shifted to more focused, targeted acquisition and retention efforts to keep our subscriber acquisition costs down in light of declining ARPUs. To better manage our E-ranking costs, we took advantage of the low interest rates in 2007 and prepaid $300 million senior notes due 2012 which will result in P2.3 billion interest expense savings for the company over the next five years. We continue to review our internal processes to find ways to improve overall efficiency and productivity levels.

Unilever Corp.

In production, we do process simplification so that less energy is required. For our warehouses, we replace plain galvanized iron roof with transparent fiber roof to improve lighting. We also replaced high-wattage lights with efficient CFL lights. We re-use treated water for yard cleaning and watering plants.

GMA Network Inc.

Felipa Gozon, president

Through the assistance of outside consultants we were able to streamline our operations in general and our program procurement in particular resulting in: lean manpower, less shooting and taping days, less rental expenses, less power consumption, less consumption of supplies, reduced overtimes, greater efficiency and productivity, etc.

Empire East Land Holdings Inc.

Charlemagne Sy, CEO

Even before this oil crisis, we have been very conscious of our costs. I suppose this started during the Asian crisis years. For instance, people are not even allowed to use unused sheets for personal memos. Even today, when we are selling quite well already, we do not allow using corporate

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Rising Gulf inflation could push foreign workers home

DUBAI—LURED BY TAX-FREE jobs and cheap living, foreign workers have long gravitated to wealthy Gulf Arab states to earn a better living, but rising costs are now forcing many to go home.

Inflation has soared to record or near-record levels across the Gulf Arab region, where migrants struggling from high-cost Western countries to low-wage states; laborers have formed the backbone of oil-fueled development since the 1970s.

Already pinched by rising rents and salaries, firms are finding it increasingly hard to recruit staff to countries like the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf trade hub where migrants paid in the dollar-pegged dirham have eroded the value of remittances.

Inflation helped drive Indian journalist Sunday Carvalho to end a 30-year sojourn in the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf trade hub where migrants paid in the dollar-pegged dirham have eroded the value of remittances.

"The cost of living in the UAE, particularly Abu Dhabi, has been rising steadily led by soaring house rents ... Salaries haven't risen commensurately. So ... if I had to move my family from Abu to the UAE, my savings would be meager," he said.

"Also, as in the case of most Indians, we are hit by the rising Indian rupee against the US dollar. Given the dirham's peg to the dollar, our remittances to India are now lower by at least three to 10 percent in value. A double whammy as to speak." With economic growth of 9 percent, India now creates more jobs at better pay prompting skilled workers to stay home.

While Gulf Arab economies are reaping a windfall from a near seven-fold surge in oil prices since 2002, analysts say soaring inflation could undercut rapid economic growth.

"The pace of growth of the economy is going to be limited by inflation ... Qatar and the UAE have difficulty bringing in workers from India because their salaries will be eaten away by high inflation and high rent and they won't be able to send money home," said one Middle East consultant.

In the UAE, foreigners comprise over 80 percent of the population, which includes 1.5 million employment portal Bayt.com found almost two-thirds of employers in the Middle East and South Africa think their salaries are not rising fast enough to keep up with inflation.

Retail increases have forced Qatar, Oman and the UAE to impose rent caps. The UAE government has also agreed with some supermarket chains to freeze prices on a range of foodstuffs.

Expatriates worry that plans to introduce value-added tax across the Gulf by 2013, and talk of a rise on luxury goods ranging from yachts to cigarettes, could tip the balance.

The saving grace for Gulf economies, say expatriates, is that inflation is hitting just as hard elsewhere. Even after the credit crunch, British property prices and rents are cheering to many Britons who enjoy the sun and glamour of Dubai.

"It is getting more expensive. You are not saving any extra money. I pretty much live hand to mouth," said Tariq Ali, a British car salesman who moved to Dubai in 2004.

"On the other hand I could not afford a big flat with a pool and gym in central London like I can here."

Reuters

BUILDINGS along Sheikh Zayed road in Dubai, as of the United Arab Emirates Gulf states

Hit by fuel price, which way will motorists turn?

LONDON—WITH OIL PRICES now $140 a barrel, motorists are starting to look seriously at fuel-alternative fuels and electric vehicles as a way to keep driving their cars.

But experts say it will take five to 10 years for these alternatives to take root, given the capacity challenges for an auto industry due to adding 65 million new cars a year to a fleet of 1 billion.

In the meantime, car and parts makers, oil companies and even electricity generators are left guessing which way successful will win.

"We don't know at the moment whether it's battery-based electricity technology or sustainable biofuels that will be successful," said James Smith, chair of Shell UK Ltd., speaking at a climate change seminar hosted by Reuters.

"The energy issues are confronting us are very significant." A range of options will emerge as motorists pick between "plug-in" electric cars, longer-range gasoline-electric "hybrids," or simply downsized, more efficient gasoline and diesel models, and say consumers worried by global warming and energy security, give more or less support for biofuels.

WITH oil prices near $140 a barrel, motorists are starting to look seriously at fuel-alternative fuels and electric vehicles as a way to keep driving their cars.

Hybrid vehicles, which have built a conventional internal combustion engine and electric motor and battery, are already popular. Toyota Motor Corp. has sold 1.5 million Prius hybrids since 1997 and it wants hybrids to reach one-tenth of its total sales by 2015.

In a hybrid, the electric battery and motor aid stop-start city driving, while the gasoline engine allows longer trips, regenerative cooling energy use and recharges batteries.

Hybrids accounted for 3 per cent of US car sales in 2007.

Makers absorb most of the extra $5,000 engine cost, leaving the street price only $2000 to $3000 higher.

Hybrids could be "broadly present" in the auto industry in five years, said Gloria Shatikoff, head of electrification research at GE, which has made to gain from widespread electrification of road transport.

Paul Nieuwenhuis, automotive researcher at Cardiff University in Wales, said that hybrids like the Prius are electrically to be rewritables by plug-in hybrids, which will have the extra option to charge from the grid.

General Motors Corp. rumors its plug-in hybrid, the Chevy Volt, to reach showrooms in 2010. European brands including Mercedes, Volkswagen and BMW and Japan's Honda plan rivals.

Pure plug-in electric cars, meanwhile, have no combustion engine at all and have struggled to shake off a spidery image—with few miles of fabulous-but-expensive sports cars, both with limited range.

Tesla Motors of San Carlos, California, advertises a Roadster with a top speed of 125 miles per hour (200 km/h) and a range of 220 miles (320 km). But Linda Nicholez, president of electric car pressure group "Plug In America," is still awaiting delivery two years after ordering hers at a price of $100,000.

"We've been waiting eagerly every since. I've been told September (2008)," said Nicholez, who is nonetheless still excited. "It's sleek, snazzy. All will be forgiven." For those who can't wait, Monaco privately held Venturi is marketing a 207,000-euro ($440,000) electric car with a top speed of 160 kilometers per hour (100 mph), called Fetish.

"It's the pleasure to drive which will make it someone's favorite object," a spokesperson said, explaining the name and adding it had sold five models so far.

Meanwhile, specialist car producer Think, based in Oslo, plans a run of 8,000 full-electric cars in 2009 at 20,000 euros ($30,000) each.

And a Renault-Nissan alliance plans to start deploying full-electric cars from 2010.

Electric car developments hinge on batteries which are light but pack enough power to travel more than 100 miles (160 km). A huge industry is one of the global fuse to electric alternatives may take 10 years, said Charles Gassenheimer, chair of Britain's battery supplier Smart, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Alternatively you can keep your car but switch the fuel, agrees gasoline. Sugar-based biofuels are making serious headway against gasoline in Brazil, where nearly 80 percent of new cars have flex-fuel engines, which burn any combination of the two.

In the United States, ethanol-to-help biofuels made from corn supply about 2 percent of the domestic fuel mix.

But biofuels made from crops such as corn aren't the answers replacements for gasoline, critics. A finite supply of farmland has pitted them against food, inflating grain prices.

A unit of standard, US corn biofuel blend, called E10, contains enough calories to sustain an adult man for 11 days.

That underlines the problems of using food to make car fuel while 850 million people in the world are hungry.

Limited scope for global crop yields improvements will limit such "first generation" biofuels. Further off, sustainable biofuels which come from algae or woodchips and don't compete with food, may reach 15 percent of US road fuel by 2022.

While some experts say that cars fueled by hydrogen fuel cells, which rely on the conversion of hydrogen and oxygen into water and which don't have harmful emissions, are confusing, the technology is still in its infancy.

Honda Motor Co. began production on June 18 of a new fuel-cell car, the FCX Clarity, but has plans to sell only 200 in the United States and Japan in the next three years. The biggest hurdles for proliferation of hydrogen fuel vehicles are a lack of fueling stations and the high cost of development.

Reuters

When companies tighten their belts

Front page B2-1

levels to buy snacks during meetings of officers. For Christmas, we encourage people to live simply wherever before parties used to be held in grand ballrooms with people wearing gowns and suits. Since I started, all Christmas parties have been held in club houses of our own development and we take only internal talents instead of hiring glamorous actors and actresses to give entertainment. I am so thrifty that I think I can fill up a book of cost reduction measures in good times and bad.

Figaro Coffee Corp.
Paola U. Juan, CFO
We cut pool as much as we can. We went off air conditioning one hour before official quitting time. Our computer monitors are off during lunch break. We use power strips for our appliances so there will be no phantom loads or unused electricity.

Land Bank of the Philippines
Agustin Fredrick A. Apilado
AVP/Corporate Affairs Department
Decreased power consumptions, fuel, paper and solid waste. We got and sustained 99 percent OOR rating for 2007 and 2008.

Golden Arches Dev't Corp.
Francisco Ivanhoe "Tito" Dy Buncio
Jessica Torres-Ibe
As the head office, we were off lights during lunch time. Disposal of utensils are controlled by the department secretaries and we bring our own utensils.

Ortigas and Co.
Raul C. Dalisay II, COO
Our energy conservation has been going on for five years. At the Greenhills Shopping Center, we replaced more than 150 units of stand-alone fire cabinets with recessed airconditioning. We replaced our incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps and we updated our air conditioning technologies and replaced old service vehicles in Concrete Aggregates Corp., we availed ourselves of time-of-use electricity rate options and maximized manufacturing operations at non-peak hours where electricity rates are cheaper. We also increased transportation allowances for key personnel and giving gift certificates monthly for employees to help them with their expenses. Finally, we will BPO buildings to be constructed in Pasong Tamo and the 3,000-unit Aqua Verde condominiums are all green buildings.

HSBC
Johnson Garcia, AVP
We have been implementing energy-saving measures as part of our ongoing commitment to the environment. These include using lower wattage light bulbs, enhancing and actively maximizing our videoconferencing capabilities/facilities and making available a regular shuttle between our two main offices at the Port and the Enterprise to minimize travel costs.

Wealth Inc.
Albert M.G. Garcia, president
As company president, we have instilled in our employees that the most valuable commodity (talent) we have is time. Consequently all employees aim to achieve efficiencies and time wasted by concurrently implementing tasks which results to maximizing productivity and efficiency.

We try to show this principle and mindset with our associates and suppliers and emphasize that it is improper, rude and downright unprofessional for them to waste our time.

We also constantly review all fixed and variable costs with the aim to eliminate redundant expenses. But more importantly we strive to extract value-added benefits from proposals beyond what is cobbled and look outside of the box for additional opportunities from cross linkages.

Overall we aim to maximize the value of our resources by finding ways to increase its worth, rather than reduce costs for cuts sake.

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Deep wells built for Cavinti

BARANGAY MAHIPON, LUMOT IN CAVINTI, Laguna, received much needed boost in their standard of living when the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. turned over a deep well to supply the water needs of the more than 2000 residents of the area. The project was undertaken through the initiative of FFCCCII vice-chair for Agriculture Manuel O. Chuaca as reported by Cavinti Mayor Ronaldo L. Ergoncia. Earlier projects were a deep well in Barangay Kanluran Talaongan, San Roque Chapel on top of a hill and free school houses.

The Generics Pharmacy to hit 200 stores

THE COUNTRY'S first generics retail pharmacy to franchise in the Philippines will sustain its pioneering efforts in the industry by putting up 200 stores by the end of 2008.

This was announced by The Generics Pharmacy president Benjamin I. Lacson, who pointed out the crucial need for access to quality yet affordable medicines by every Filipino amid tough economic times and an unpredictable environment where everyone is always at risk of illness and poor health conditions.

The Generics Pharmacy presently has 55 branches around the country, mostly around Metro Manila but also in major areas like Cebu, Batangas, Bulacan, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Antipolo, and General Santos City.

The pharmacy outlets offer some 150 generic medicines that represent 30 percent of the common medication bought by Filipinos. These include medication for common ailments like headache, fever, cough and colds, diarrhea, constipation, and hyperacidity. Drugs for serious ailments like high blood, hypertension, cholesterol, diabetes, asthma, and arthritis are also available, along with antibiotics, vitamins, and food supplements. Some products are imported from China, India, and Pakistan, while others are sourced from local drug makers.

First opened in Pasay City in July 2007, The Generics Pharmacy has since experienced rapid growth and development with the expertise of Franchise, an international franchising consultancy firm. That month alone, about 20 stores opened in Metro Manila. About 140 franchise locations have been granted nationwide, and more applications are being processed to date.

Cheap way to call and text

THE NEWEST and most affordable deal from Sun Cellular, Budget60, gives you 30 texts to other networks valid for 1 day for only P5.00! You can also maximize this offer by using it together with other equally budget-friendly unlimited products from Sun Cellular.

Use Sun's Call and Text Unlimited P25 (27L25) together with Budget60 to enjoy Sun-to-Sun unlimited call and text service while staying connected without texts to other networks. So, for only P30, you can have unlimited Sun-to-Sun calls and texts plus 30 texts to other networks for 24 hours.

Another good deal is when you combine Sun's one day Text Unlimited P15 (7L15) with Budget60. This gives you unlimited texts and 15 minutes of Sun-to-Sun calls plus 15 texts to other networks for only P30.00. (as broadcasted indeed!)

DOE, GE light up NCMH

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DOE) in partnership with GE Lighting Philippines, Inc. recently held the ceremonial switching on of the lights at the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH), in line with DOE's ongoing Accept-A-Hospital project, a collaborative effort between the department and major players in the local lighting industry.

DOE Secretary Angelo T. Reyes led the ceremonial rites and the official turnover of the said project by GE to NCMH.

GE replaced 982 NCMH's old lamps and donated 284 pieces of 36-watt T8 lamps, 80 pieces 18-watt T8 lamps and 20 pieces Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). These energy-saving lamps will enable the hospital to save 112 megawatt-hr in the second six-month period, which can be used for the improvement of hospital facilities and services.

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Proilan Chua Yu (Jr)
Victor Cruz Tupas Jr. (Jr)
Victoria Z. Almario
Laura Sanal Domingo
Elizabeth Yu Ang (Jr)
Augusto Tiboy Quinto
Norberto De Guzman Dela Rosa
Lorie Tapia Morales
Lolita Ty Chua (Jr)
Rosa Co (Jr)
San Agustin Tulip And Corsi
Elena Ong Samson (Jr)
Dr. Erlinda Chiong (Jr)
Anthony Bautista De Castro
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BUSINESS Mond

Lucio Tan in Vivienne's eyes

KAPITAN with daughter Vivienne and grandchildren Francoise and Kara (from the book "Our Father")

THE LIVES OF THE RICH AND famous always fascinate people.

Every tidbit of information is taken note of. The richest even in the country are often the most elusive. They very rarely give interviews or smile and avoid the cameras as much as they can.

A glimpse of one of the Philippines richest men, Lucio Tan, can be had from the words of daughter Vivienne in a speech she delivered years ago but which still provides a rare opportunity to see the man in the eyes of his daughter.

"Real or make-pleme allow me to share with a few stories on parenting I learned by walking down memory lane.

My father, born of very humble beginnings ... an immigrant from China with little knowledge of the basic dialect ... wasn't able to graduate with a degree, and who faced racial discrimination—rampant in that time ... he struggled his way to become one of the most successful industrialists in the Philippines. For more, he is the astute ... controversial ... shrewd ... and reclusive Kapitan ... but he is first and foremost, that to me and my first brother.

Let me start with this story:

Once upon a time, our whole family went to Japan for a vacation. It was a freezing day in Tokyo. I was a skinny seven-year-old wearing my favorite pullover with an apple on it. My younger sister and I were left with my dad. As always, the older ones spent their time doing their shopping while the younger ones were stuck waiting for them to finish.

We were restless and my sister and I were freezing, we were chattering, eager in a while playing smoke rings and watching our breath in our pockets. My dad slowly approached us, sat down, smiled and softly said, "Just think it is not cold."

My younger sister and I just looked at each other with a puzzled look unable to comprehend how he could even say such a thing, when it was downright cold. I thought that maybe the cold had started to get to his brain.

Perhaps sensing our skepticism, my dad promised and said, "Relax, close your eyes and imagine. Think of the color green, imagine grass, think of the color yellow, imagine the sun, think of sunflowers ... imagine the colorful butterflies ... imagine hearing the birds chirping ... imagine the weather ... it is summer, it is hot ..."

Then, as if under a magic spell, I felt my body slowly stop shivering, my teeth stopped chattering. When I opened my eyes, I was actually still with my father, who was now smiling. Then he said: "See! It is all in the mind. Just believe."

Up to this day, I earnestly bring to mind that story especially during different times and when "cold" circumstances arise in my life.

Ten years later, my first year in the US to see was a nursing point.

The first few months, I saw the typical things seen on TV: US college life; parties, sex, drugs, alcohol. Peer pressure was so visible. I was brought up with a solid foundation and I was never a person who can easily be persuaded. I never got lured into those things ... initially. I stayed on track and focused on school.

On my second term, my friends started getting to me. Like some schoolmates, I wanted to see dances, go to parties, shop, hang out. I knew I was not doing the right thing but why until my friends and schoolmates see anything wrong? How can they see their tattoos freely, given to them by their parents, to buy cars and other things? I felt so lost. I felt so confused.

One time, I came home from spring break ... my dad was there. He was carrying a piece of paper. I was shocked to see that it was actually my grade report! Up to this day, I never asked how it got to him. Full of shame ... I remember I didn't want to look up.

Instead of getting scolded, he gave his grade report and asked: "How are your grades of he and Bs deteriorate to Cs and even Ds?" I was burning with guilt. I wished he just scolded or yelled at me. But no. He didn't. He screamed by saying: "I can buy you everything you want but I cannot buy you knowledge. The best I can do is to give you everything you need to acquire that knowledge. And that, I have given you. The rest is up to you."

"The rest is up to me" ... those words hit me like a ton of bricks. I took for granted my education, knowledge systems. Things became clearer and I knew what to do.

Four years later, in 1995, I was fortunate enough to graduate from the University of San Francisco with a double degree in Math & Computer Science. Being a computer science graduate from the US in the '90s, I could have actually commanded a handsome salary. Fortunate enough I had good job offers with great salaries from the best multinational companies.

My dad who had just flown to us that time asked me which offer I had decided to take. I hesitantly replied that as a computer science grad I was entitled to ask for the highest bid, which would surely come along. He paused and then calmly said, "Be humble. Don't look at the money, but rather, look at what you really want to do and the amount of learning and growth you would get." He further added, "In fact, you should pay tuition to the company for giving you the training you need."

These are just a few of my unforgettable learning points. In the end, we see the man kind of our experiences. The lessons that I have learned from my father are some essential principles I carry with me today and that I believe will make a successful individual. Belief ... passion ... and knowledge ... a few important values that I wish to bring back to the Philippines." Margie Quiroga-Espiritu

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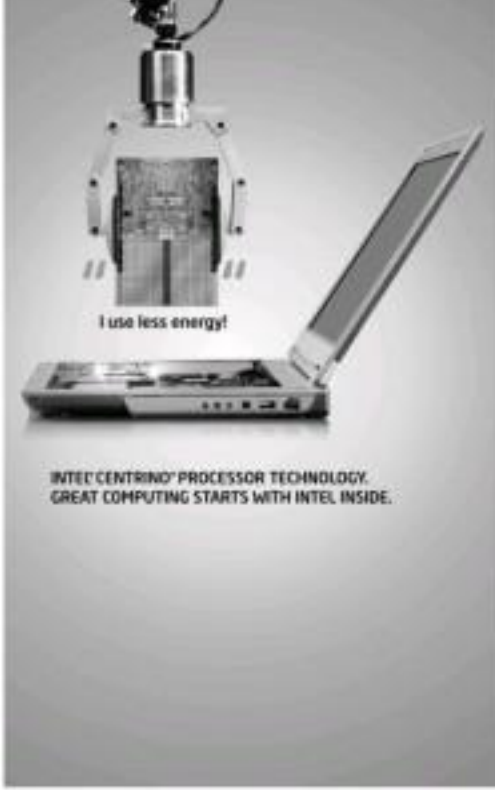

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Sneaky tips that take pain out of budgeting

Develop a spending plan

1. TRACK DAILY EXPENSES USING MOBILE phone's "Notes" function.
2. Set aside money for savings, investment and bills payment.
3. Create a new account for savings and ask your bank to automate an amount for this regularly.
4. Make sure you have "fun money."
5. Watch the swiping of the credit card.

By Ma. Sabre Duplito
INQUIRER.net

IF YOUR HEART DOES FLIP-flops over numbers, budgeting the traditional way will be easy. Jot down every expense the moment you make it, figure out how much you really spend and where your money goes on a monthly basis, set a limit for each item and stay glued to your ideal budget.

But the number game is not an easy one for most and not even rising oil and food prices can stop busy parents into budget freaks.

Rumella Yap, an economist and a mother of three children, could hardly sophisticated rules. Asians has the funds it very hard to budget the conventional way.

Time-consuming

"They say budgeting is the foundation of good money management. Say 1 Rm! is too time-consuming, I would rather read to my child," Yap says.

On the contrary, Yap's sister, who is also a mother, has mastered the art of budgeting. She records all her daily expenses at the end of the day in her Starbucks calendar book," Yap says.

Higher prices of gas, food and almost everything else are hitting Filipino homes hard this year. Budgeting could ensure incomes by helping Filipinos to avoid spending on things they don't really need, like DVDs, restaurant meals and toys.

The problem is that only very few take the time to make a budget, and fewer still stick to it. Budgeting sounds and feels painful; convincing it can mean spending binges, says Rachel M. Garcia III, president of Philippine Savings Bank.

Spending plan

Take the pain out of budgeting by calling it a "spending plan." After all, budgeting is not really about the drudgery of keeping records; it is about the joy of being able to afford a good vacation. It is not about walking away vulnerably from that Batanese television set; it is about coming closer to financial independence. Mentally, budgeting with positive things will turn it from a necessary evil into a reachable habit.

J.D. Roth, a former cost-hoard bon salesperson whose blog, GetRichSlowly.org, has been chosen as one of the most inspiring personal finance blogs by Money Magazine, says a budget is a recipe for failure.

"It's too fussy. I can't stick to it. When I don't stick to it, I feel guilty. When I feel guilty I tend to spend more money. Still, I've found it's helpful to have some sort of written financial plan.

(SEE B3-1)

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Tapping into the adventure market

TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES are no longer confined to bonding between teams or rosters.

Property developers are further fitting certain features of their developments to nurture this need.

The Las Haciendas Commission in Liwed, Batangas has created the Project Liwed Adventure Camp as top families and companies seeking a different experience.

Las Haciendas project director Manuel Syjuco Jr., says, "We want to be known not only as the best resort in the country but also as the No. 1 option for business and corporate functions or conventions where you can do it leisurely."

"We are promoting the 'Hacienda' adventure camp because we know that more companies nowadays, especially in the call center industry are looking for a perfect place to hold their company gatherings and team building sessions to strengthen the bonds between employer-employee relationship toward achieving a common end for the company," Syjuco explains.

Tejada also explained the rope challenges in Project Liwed were designed for experienced trainers for outdoor team building programs.

"The challenges course is a series of carefully designed, interactive events in which groups directly address the issues of leadership, teamwork, communication, outside-the-box thinking, diversity, risk, commitment and much more; all in a safe, contained environment and all in a relatively brief time span," adds Tejada.

Participating groups and individuals in the adventure camp can enjoy several challenges like the Jacob's Ladder, Tarzan's Wall, Tarzan Swing, Chicken Walk, Mad Hide, Climbing wall and Zipline. As the challenges progress, each will learn to explore risk, identify leadership qualities, learn the value of communication, problem solving and resolving fault-type of challenge is intended to highlight a certain value, such as the Islander's Wall for unity.

The Las Haciendas Resources

DAWNG-ILI

Use water wisely: Firm walks the talk

ABE MISTLÉ PHILIPPINES CHAIR and CEO Nanda Nandkishore-why the company has launched a water conservation campaign with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and he replies: "First, as human beings, our bodies are made of about two-thirds water, which we need to replenish constantly. That's how large water is to life. The average person can survive without food for up to four months, but only up to five days without water.

As a natural resource, the supply of water—that very essential life is finite and under threat. Nestlé in a Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company, and water is important to our consumers and our manufacturing operations. Therefore, we have an obligation not only to use water wisely, but also to promote its conservation and efficient use," he explained.

The DENR-Nestlé water conservation campaign now as an main vehicle in Mata Ng Bata On the Eyes of a Child), the classic, award-winning public service campaign first launched by Nestlé Philippines in the late 1960s to call the attention of the public to the vital role of adults in forming the values of children who look up to them as role models.

The current Sa Mata ng Bata lineup reminds audiences that water is an indispensable but limited resource, and that they can personally take specific actions to conserve it. Each materials in the series promotes awareness that possible water is becoming increasingly scarce, and advocates a practical, specific action that can be taken in daily life by children and adults alike to conserve water and avoid waste.

Key facts outline just how grave the global and local water situation is:

Even while there is so much water in the world, only 2.5 percent of it is actually fresh water—with much of it frozen—so that the fresh water available for human and environmental needs is barely one percent of the earth's total intake.

Population increases have significantly reduced the per capita availability of water resources. Even as the need is rising steadily, accessible water is unevenly distributed, with 23 of the world's 190 countries controlling 66 percent only.

Pollution has a lasting impact on the quality and quantity of fresh water, whether its source is urban, industrial or agricultural.

The World Health Organization cites the lack or poor quality of drinking water as one of the world's leading causes of morbidity. Worldwide, some 1.2 billion people still have no access to a drinking water system, and 2.5 to 3 billion lack decent sanitary facilities.

DENR and Nestlé, says Nandkishore, launched the water conservation campaign with the participation of major industry partners.

On a corporate level, Nestlé's commitment to the sustainable use of water resources is embodied in the Nestlé Water Policy, which details the Company's long-term commitments in the sustainable use of water resources. The document identifies how water consumption and conservation and stewardship are integrated throughout diverse areas related to the activities of Nestlé, including the manufacturing of products and their preparation by consumers.

The efficient use of water, with all its units worldwide is governed by the Nestlé Water Policy. Their water usage performance is tracked regularly, and the company's practices, initiatives and achievements are reported through a table usage of case studies from actual Nestlé operations. "We are proud to note that from 1998 to 2007, Nestlé was able to reduce its overall water usage by 28 percent worldwide, while increasing the total production volume by 76 percent," Nandkishore says.

"In the Philippines, we explore every possible way to optimize the use of water in our operations and eliminate unnecessary consumption. Through various initiatives in our factories, we have cut down our water consumption by 16.7% percent since 1997, or an average of 65,500 cubic meters of water every year," he adds.

Sneaky tips that take pain out of budgeting

Pi nextpage B3 ›

Over the past few years I've developed what I call a "spending plan," Roth says in his blog.

A spending plan doesn't have the same sort of rigidity associated with a budget. That seems it feels better than going to the dentist, and people don't need to pinch themselves to do it.

Mobile phone tally

Still, there's a need to find out how much you earn and how you spend. If you feel like money passes through your hand like water, it's time to see your phone not just for texting and calling.

Record everything you buy for each week for four weeks to your phone's notepad function. Later? Write it down. Full cash or gasoline? Write it down. When you get your paycheck, jot down your take-home pay, too.

Do this for one month. By the end of that period, you'll know what kind of spender you are. If you discover that you are a walking wallet who can't resist the very street food smell, and find out that you're spending all your money on handbags on onions, there don't have the house hungry.

You'll know if you should cut down on taxi rides and invest instead on comfy shoes that can take you to your meetings. By the end of four weeks, you might find out that your mid-year bonus disappeared not on chips and snacks but medicine, which may mean, you don't have to be too harsh on yourself.

The realizations may keep you focused on weightier matters and not on guilt trips. One month of diligent mobile phone tallying, especially with a wife or husband, may help envelop buyer's remorse. What's more, savings from all those corrective actions could be big enough to meet an emergency or even education fund.

Skins from the top

Pilbeam's Garcia doesn't mother words with its help. Filipinos envy and and binge-spending: Skins from the top. To do this, set aside money for savings, investments and others necessities like utilities and credit card payments the moment you get your paycheck. Then spend the rest on whatever strikes your fancy.

You like the swoppy sandals at the bazaar? So long you still have money why not buy them? You don't need to quibble over every little bit of cash because you know you've covered your bases. Garcia said you can get rid of budgeting allows people to think to saving religiously.

Automating your savings

You can power up Garcia's tip by automating savings. Most banks these days can schedule money transfers in advance. If you don't do this for you, there more to market bank.

Simply give your bank instruction: to transfer a set amount to a no-touch savings account. Another amount to cover utility bills and credit card payments should be transferred to an expense account. Incidentally, you will know how much money you can play with and feel a sense of fulfillment because you have actual money some money for the future.

Financial planner Nanette Ferreria says setting up different bank accounts for savings/investments and expenses saves you from doing fancy accounting work. Even without closely spreadsheets tracking your spending plans, you will know immediately if you are overspending just by looking at your balance in those different accounts.

"This is hard in the beginning but you will discover that by setting up different accounts, it will be easy to stop yourself from spending too much just by looking at your balance," Ferreria says.

Fun money

Experts also suggest making sure fun money is included in your spending plan. Filipinos are naturally pessimistic based on results of government consumer confidence surveys.

Without fun money and reward for hard work, people will feel even worse. Setting aside funds for a brief weekend getaway, for example, allows breadwinners to stay guesthouse about work. The limited amount will prevent over indulging.

Credit cards vs cash

Perhaps you have already done everything—from fun tips, automated savings, to age different bank accounts and set aside fun money. Problem are of credit cards can turn them all.

"Credit cards give you a false sense of security. It makes you think you still have a lot of money, but you actually don't. Plastic is good for improving cash flow and during emergencies," Ferreria says.

While that advice on having a right budget, first step the cope with rising inflation by doing what most mothers are doing—buying more goodies with purchasers.

"I buy my fish, poultry and meat now from the wet market instead of the grocery. Instead of buying different sizes of trash bags, I use grocery bags instead. I think these things translate in savings," Ferreria says.

Times are hard and Filipinos are feeling the pinch. Starting on a spending plan may make all the difference between college in a good university and no education at all, or getting good doctors and no money for a hospital room. The good thing is, a spending plan doesn't have to be painful at all.

(More tips on personal finance in Moneyboxers, an INQUIRER.net blog at http://blogs.inquirer.net/moneyboxers.)

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Tapping ...

From page B3-1

Commodities is being developed by realty investors from different organizations who collaborated just few years ago and realized their vision of creating science in the real estate industry by developing state-of-the-art commercial and residential projects but can also cater to everyone who are looking for spaces to hold activities that are mostly needed in the corporate world.

The property houses of five businesses or communities unique from each other, namely: Hacienda Casanda, Legion, Montanez, Textile and Rio Azules from the Pequot Lawak Adventure Camp, it also provides itself with revolutionary conversation center and a modern concluded name Casa Sonrisas.

Wall Climbing

Know where, how, why people buy

From page B3-1

places, but one of the most pervasive of these cards is the SM Advantage Card launched in September 2003 as a gateway of goodwill to its customers. Four million of these cards with an embedded chip have been issued.

Points are earned from purchases in SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Hypermarket and SM retail affiliates.

According to SM vice president Millie Dizon, the SM Advantage Loyalty Program has given the group a better insight into what makes its customers tick and allowed it to make better-informed decisions concerning marketing, merchandising and operations.

"Such information enables SM to design marketing and merchandising activities that are cost-effective and more relevant to the target shoppers," Dizon says.

By using a chip card, Dizon says that the SM group could offer real-time rewarding of points. Customers have the option to exchange their rewards for a discount or, if they have enough points, get a product for free.

She added that since the chip could store more information, the group was working on the possibility of bringing in more partners to provide SM Advantage members with more benefits.

"In addition, the company is exploring other functionalities for the card that will allow members to use it as an all-in-one card, much like the Octopus Card in Hong Kong," Dizon says.

National Book Store is likewise benefiting from its Linking National card, which was issued to underscore the giant retail chain's affinity with its customers.

"It was created to reward its customers, especially the ones who buy from us regularly, and provide additional value for the business they have given National Book Store over the years," says Cecilia Ramos-Limcaoco, NBS vice president for purchasing.

Members can get exclusive discounts on selected items, exclusive privileges and services and benefits from partners like restaurants and movie houses.

Accumulated points in the Linking National card can be converted to e-cash that are honored as cash in all 300 National Book Store branches across the country.

Limcaoco says National Book Store used a chip card, even if it is more expensive than one with just a magnetic stripe, because it can store more data.

"A chip card provides security for points and rebates and lessens the instances of errors in points redemption because information resides in the chip," she said.

She adds that the smart chip provides National Book Store with relevant information, such as the number of purchases made in a specific branch, enabling the group to give frequent shoppers loyalty incentives.

"In the future, we plan to establish a three-tier program based on level of loyalty, differentiated benefits package based on value of purchases made, and an attractive program to generate long-term patronage," she adds.

The Ayala group, on the other hand, has decided to maintain magnetic stripe cards instead of going for chip cards.

The Ayala Malls eGC gift card is an improvement over the paper gift certificates that the group offered to the customers.

"The idea to introduce an electronic gift certificate was to make its use more convenient for the customers. The Ayala Malls eGC made it possible for a customer to use the same card to several establishments," says Ayala malls' Cathy Bongcaro.

As for the group, Bongcaro says the eGC helps increase customer patronage of the Ayala Malls merchants' parts, and since the data is stored in the terminals, the accumulated reports give the group a better idea of where the eGC is being used — which establishments avail credit and the particular items bought.

The group, however, has more in store for the eGC.

"Our goal is to make the eGC more accessible and convenient for the customers by increasing store coverage to our malls. We started with only 100 stores, now we have more than 1,500 member establishments across all the Ayala malls," Bongcaro says.

"We would also like to introduce special edition designs of the card for certain important occasions such as Christmas and birthdays," Bongcaro adds.

Experts agree that the chips pack more punch than the magnetic stripe, but it will still take some time before the majority of Philippine companies issuing cards migrate to the chip cards, preferring to keep in the old magnetic stripes.

MasterCard Philippines country manager Ruth Villa-Real says in the banking industry, which issues cards that function like those offered by retail companies, there is no regulation mandating the financial institutions to migrate to chip-based cards.

"Justifying migration to chip cards is a business case that each individual bank must develop using general criteria such as fraud levels, risk mitigation, customer loyalty and experience," Villa-Real says.

He says, however, that chip cards truly offer more value than magnetic stripe cards.

"Chip cards have many times the information storage capacity of magnetic stripe cards. This increased capacity to hold more data allows the chip card to do far more for both the card holder and the merchant," he says.

"The merchants in particular, these chip card elements translate to benefits such as lower chargebacks or claims against merchants, enhanced customer buying experience and retention, reduced paperwork, easy data handling and referrals," Villa-Real adds.

With all these benefits of chip cards, it may just be a matter of time before more retail companies join the great migration to smart cards.

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BUSINESS Monday

Know where, how, why people buy

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GIANT MALLS AND LEADING RETAIL companies are doing all they can to get to know their customers better.

They want to know what they buy, where they buy, why they buy and how often they part with their cash.

This because these market players in the competitive retail industry have long ago realized that by knowing their consumers more intimately, they stand a better chance of keeping them loyal and attracting new buyers with deep pockets to draw bill.

Another way by which they do this is to offer them clip loyalty cards that are equipped to store the valuable information on their customers that they badly need to get their hands on.

The SM group, the largest retail company with 32 malls all over the Philip-

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June 25-26 - Urdaneta Conferences in Manila
July 4 - Urdaneta Conferences in Cebu City
August - Urdaneta Essay and Art contest
October - Urdaneta Exhibit at San Agustin Museum
Basque festival and trade fair
Launch of Urdaneta's biography

For more information, visit:
www.urdaneta500.org and www.urdaneta.org

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OBSESSIONS
PASSION FOR COLLECTING

Julius Babao's art collection

By Walter Ang
Contributor
Photos by Jim Bates Pascaline

THE FACADE of newscaster Julius Babao's home is austere.

However, to plain walls, stone lines and lack of outdoor lighting belie a cornucopia of colors and shapes that adorn the interior.

There is an almost acute sense of horror vacui upon entering the home, as every available square inch of wall space is filled with paintings of varying sizes in every imaginable technique and medium.

The eye-level painting seen at the door by Wilbert shows

JAVA 02

FOYER of Julius Babao's Quezon City home is a veritable modern gallery.

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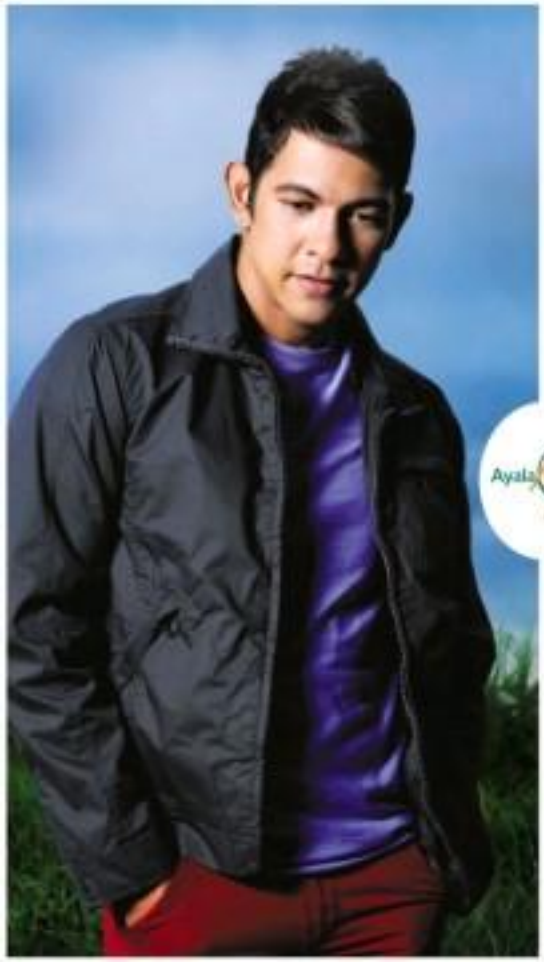

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"DIPTYCH," by C.J. Tuvera given Babao and Tin-tin Bersola's kitchen.

BY JOHN Jaylo

BY JOHN Savior.

Julius Babao's art collection

Parlaying his passion for collecting, the broadcast personality has rallied many top artists to contribute for an auction to raise funds for Gawad Kalinga

Passage C)

dramatic red curtains oh so slightly parted in the middle, revealing the faces of two lost beauties in a deep, forever blue.

High above everything else, with a relatively small dedicated to it, is one of Rafael's favorites, Elmer Borlongan's "Bus Stop," depicting several would-be passengers in vast, near poses of skepticism.

These two pieces are an apt prelude for every visitor. We, there's a lot going on here, this is just the holding area, and you've only seen the tip of the iceberg.

A kinetic piece (a sculpture with moving parts) by Gabby Barredo stares at the door, welcoming new arrivals to stay and digest the eclectic exhibit curated by Babao in his home-cum-gallery.

Passion for the arts

If there is anyone to "blame" for his passion for visual arts, it is the late Grub Ollendo.

Although Babao had wanted to take up Fine Arts in college, he never thought he would one day be collecting art. In the mid-'90s, he passed by one of Ollendo's pieces in a mall-based gallery and was smitten.

"It was beautiful. I got goosebumps," he recalls. "I had no idea who the painter was. They told me he was dead already."

He was still a starting reporter and blanched at the price, but the love affair had already been ignited. "I told myself someday I would buy one of his paintings."

A few years later, he acquired his first Ollendo painting on installment.

It wasn't long till he had amassed a collection that includes the works of Ang Kiukok, Mauro "Malang" Santos, Alfredo Luz, Benedicto "Bencab" Cabrera, Jose Joya, Cesc Alba, Lydia Cruz, Mark Justiniani, Freidan Calayag, Pedro Cuesta, Emmanuel Garibay, Ronald Ventura, Bernardo Pacquing, Jovencio Ilumen, Alfredo Esquillo, Manuel Ocampo.

Enthusiasm

If an "accomplice" to this stockpiling has to be named, it is Dr. Jovero Cuanang, president of Boston Gallery (home of the Salvador Dalí collection). Cuanang, Justiniani and Perez are buddies.

"He is my adviser and mentor when it comes to art," says Babao.

His deep affinity to the visual arts has also resulted in friendships with the artists he deals with. Mauleng, Bencab and Ang Kiukok were his wedding godfathers.

BY NELBART, a recent Babao acquisition

"I have never friends in the art world and seems enthusiastic about the current state of the Philippine art scene.

"So many people are buying art now. Some artists have waiting lists of over 60. Buyers each. Imagine how many years they would have to keep on painting to fill the demand!"

He cautions, however, that those who buy art solely for potential financial gains should review their objectives.

"Investment should be secondary. What is important is that you like what you buy," he says.

Art for compassion

This July Babao is joining all those elements of passion, art, friendships and investments into a gesture of noble enterprise.

He has packaged his numerous one-day painting for a fundraising auction where all proceeds will go into building an entire village for Gawad Kalinga in Bagong Silang, Caloocan.

Gawad Kalinga is a movement for nation building that aims to transform poverty stricken areas with the goal of building 700,000 homes in seven years (2003-2010).

Babao's wife, Christine, sponsored one home last year for a GK village for her birthday and encouraged him to do the same.

So he upped the ante and decided to sponsor an entire village. "We'll be building 25-30 houses and we'll be calling it the 40 Village," he says.

The number 40 holds sentimental value. "I'm turning 40 this year and this is actually my birthday present."

BABAO was his artist's host by painting the Christ.

SCULPTURE by Julio Llum and painting by Emmanuel Garibay

ANXIETY was his breakfast food, and in the comforts of home, Babao is in his element explaining his passion for collecting art.

BY NATIONAL Artist Kenkoh

BABAO and wife Tin-tin, with Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries

He continues: "When I broached the idea to my artist friends a few months ago, I had an overwhelming positive response."

To date, close to 100 artists have signed up, and he's still getting calls from artists who wish to join the undertaking. The auction will be held on July 20 at 9am at Gallery Antipodis, where Babao had his wedding reception.

After the houses are built, Babao plans to invite all the involved artists to paint murals on the facades of the house to inject public art into the community.

"Art is one just for appreciation," he says. "I have a lot of passion for it and I want to use it to help those who need it."

Call 7259495, visit artist's multiply.com to preview paintings up for auction.

GIFT from the late National Artist Ang Kiukok

Art 40 artists

(Editor's note: As of June 3, here are the participating artists in Julius Babao's art auction for Gawad Kalinga. Visit http://juliusbabao.multiply.com.)

Bencab	Cris Villanueva
Malang	Red Mascardo
Elmer Borlongan	Pinpin San Pascual
Mark Justiniani	Marvin Cruz
Joy Mallari	Pooky Tejuoso
Pilar Bellgado	Lydia Velasco
Marcel Antonio	Rovik Dolino
Karen Flores	Antipas Delotavo
Geraldine Javier	Pablito Jose Santos
Alfredo Esquillo	Jazar Rasquinza
Benedicto Pacquing	Jayson Oliveros
Tina Fernandez	Jessica Young
Freidan Calayag	Renato Perlesian
Felix Baccior	Romeo Lee
Demetrio	Tabeng Torres
Tamondong	Ana Ysabel
C.J Tuvera	Stephanie Lopez
Manuel Garibay	Anthony Palomo
Lena Cobangbang	Kezie Miranda
Wollart	Nina Suson
Jose Alcayaran	Vincent Padilla
John Santos	Carlo Saavedra
John Garcia	Elmer Padilla
Fernando Sena	Mark Andy Garcia
Fedie Montenegro	Melvin Calalo
Jim Orencio	Roman Ecenia
Bobby Ramirez	MM Yu
Ramon Orlina	Pratong Arrading
Bales	Ella Lluch Ballena
Fernando Enriquez	Cyrus Rivera
Norman Cruz	Jodi Tesoro Ruiz
Jose Monteverde	Samuel Ferrari
Joel Alcantara	Yasmin Elano
Constantino	Mariano Ong
Zuarth	Rolando Rosario
Lizza Cordero	Joe Salazar
Jericho Cruz	Jericho Bandoy
Jaypee Samson	Gerard de la Cruz
Jun Jaylo	Chadaphin
Andres	Zamora
Ben Isquierdo	Pete Cocoy
Ivan Flores	Genaro Espallo
Pedro Garcia	Wilfredo Mallari
Severo Sarcelo	Jovelyn Bernal
Wel Manio	Lenny Nino
Erwin Leaño	Roy Vincencio
Tody Laudia	Rolly Cela Cruz
Sandra Shiller	Noel Parna
Mervi Villaruel	Mark Dale Cudiam
Lynprof Perez	John Austria
Jonathan Cheng	Primo Valles
Gus Albor	Seb Chua
Michael Cacnio	Rey Gacia
Wilson Ma	Jon Rosario

BY ALFREDO Esquillo

"LAND between the Red Sea," by Jose V. Reguyan

"YELLOW & Black Abaca," by Reguyan

"SUMMER Forest" 2, by Jennifer Tejido

"THE FAITHFUL," by Daniel Alfajaro

Top artists at Le Soufflé

SIX DEGREES OF SUMMA-tion" is the latest on Le Soufflé Rockwell's visual arts menu.

The exhibit's title refers not only to stages of friends' linkages but also to the number of artists who, despite their differing styles, have been brought together by their artistic compass.

Half of the group are alumni/alumnae, Philippine Women's University graduates Jose Reguyan's contemporary landscapes with impasto and Jennifer Tejido's unique figures, resulting in their well-loved nudes.

The exhibit opens June 16, 7 p.m., and runs until July 5.

Le Soufflé is at G/F, Amorsolo Tower, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Call 4162990.

ARTIST Tan P. Austria receives a certificate of appreciation after delivering a lecture on art philosophy and the environment in connection with the 40th anniversary homecoming of San Ildefonso College in Taytay, Rizal, organized by the San Ildefonso College Alumni Association. The artist (in hat) is with Luzi Thevenaz Ramos, Taytay Mayor Lito Tesjuanco and Lolita Bernardo.

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VISUAL ARTS

Barreto at BlueLine

BlueLine Gallery presents Lawrence Barreto's "Wanderlust, an Itinerary" until July 5 at 4/L Roberto Rabaté domicile, who trained at University of Santo Tomas, has won the Metrobank art award. Call 897-7-424/1830.

Coquilla and Chequing at Kaida

Kaida Gallery features two solo exhibitions, "Up for Laing" by Dainsley Coquilla and "Krysanta" by Tomas Dagunag until July 9. Both shows depict contemporary Pinoy street life. Kaida is at 2/F, GXO Building, 122 Kamuning Road, Diliman, QC. Call 4144777.

"SIMO," by Dainsley Coquilla

"KALIKASAN," by Tomas Dagunag

Agapay, Bardilla, Cruz at Crucible

Kimi Agapay, Dino Bardilla and Raymondo Dizenzo Cruz will hold an exhibit, "ABC," July 1-15 at Crucible Gallery, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall. "ABC" is a lighthearted take on the artists' names and is a metaphor of the straightforward simplicity of one's childhood. All three were schoolmates at the UST School of Fine Arts. Agapay and Cruz were staff members of the UST Varsitarian magazine while Bardilla was in the UST Vanishers. The shows opens July 1, 4 p.m.

'Sala' at Yuchengco

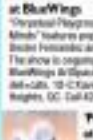
"Geronimo the Gumelita: The Culture and Power of Sala" is ongoing until Sept. 28 at Yuchengco Museum, RGBC Plaza, cor. Ayala and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenues, Makati City.

The exhibition a look into the fascinating story of the forces that consolidated Sala's power as central to the trade movements between Europe and China. Call 8889-0134.

"WORK on Paper," by Dex Fernandez; "Mavis and Folds," by Rommel Cabigao's

Fernandez and Cabigao's at BlueWings

"Perpetual Playground of Your Cuddly Minds" features pop surrealism works of Dexter Fernandez and Rommel Cabigao's. The show is ongoing until July 12 at BlueWings Bistrobar, 2/L, Kalo's Art+Cafe, 10-C Kalaw Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. Call 4262979.



"Gidlaq" ( ), by Bj Cabangon

'Polarities' at Blanc

Blanc Art Space presents "Polarities" by Marvin Jordy Gallaspec. The show runs until June 27 at 3/F, Crown Tower, 107 9th dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 7526042 or 0929-6216436.

Briccio Santos at Magnet

Briccio Santos presents new works in acrylic on paper in "Fragments," ongoing until July 15 at Magnet Gallery, 3/F, The Collonnade, cor. Ayala and Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City. "Fragments" centers on the unearthing and recolliquing of surfaces. Call 8888119.

Lee at SM

On view at Finale Art Gallery (4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall) until June 24 is "WOR-MALDITAMALE" by Rowena Lee. With very much in his element, the artist once again lunges into the otherworldly realm populated by underdevelopes, ugly and deformed creatures caught in their unsolicitudes which are invariably imbued with dark magic. Man's being in their effect, the works strike us as an attitude of horror that soon transforms into a mood of curiosity and fascination. Aficionados of our fears, we are concerned with the artist's playful and wicked inventions. Call 5382411 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.

'Duetto' at Galerie Stephanie

TWO LEADING MEMBERS OF THE Saturday Group of Artists, Migs Villanueva and Anna de Leon are presenting "Duetto," at Galerie Stephanie June 27 to July 9. Private opening is on June 27 6/7 p.m.

"Duetto" examines not only the things and concerns the two artists have in common, but also celebrates the ways they differ. The commonality can be gleaned from among the various subjects chosen for the exhibition such as music and art.

The differences lie not only in their personal values and in their individual artistic pursuits. In art, the differences would be in the equivalent, the way the subjects are interpreted, the medium chosen and the colors and compositions achieved.

The "Duetto" collection is an interesting juxtaposition of two styles, two visions. On the one hand is the vibrant playful surrealism of De Leon, as seen in her depiction of pairs of quail eggs, or a singular bird in a tangle of string. De Leon's clean and polished rendition is a way, she says, of inviting the audience to interact.

"LIGHT Rising," by Migs Villanueva (top left) and "Sue's Else Lovely," by Anna de Leon (above)

Villanueva, who is also a fitness

inventor and multi-awarded writer, depicts emotion through motion and color. Perhaps a quote from the Saturday Group Art Study will best describe her aesthetics: "In painting as in writing, Migs gives way to unplanned impulses when thoughts and feelings she might not even be aware of have a way of becoming form. She takes not as much for beauty or polish in her art as for a rugged, expressive mess of a sort—like her characters are in her stories. While she goes for a very illustrative effect when writing stories, in her visual art, she takes on a seductive sensibility that re-

duces all dimensions into distilled essences."

Galerie Stephanie is at Unit 1-E, Parc Point Bldg., 107 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Libis, Quezon City. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday and Sun. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Call 3666057/6/8, 09153488, e-mail galeriestephanie@yahoo.com or visit www.galeriestephanie.multiply.com and www.galeriestephanie.blogspot.com.

GERALDINE JAVIER

Art of entrapment and escape

The artist defies the commodification of art

By Johnathan Libaniro Bandina
Contributor

ONE WOULD THINK THAT with her newly found success, Geraldine Javier could well afford to take a much-deserved break.

But the 30-year old artist, whose works have recently registered outstanding prices in major Asian auction houses (Christie's, Sotheby's and Bonhoeber, has yet to find time to engage in her alternative passion which include farming and landscaping.

"I've never really stopped painting since I started as an artist," she says.

With a high demand for her work and several shows scheduled way into next year, the artist is a veritable prisoner in her Sampaloc home where the patois is not, even close, to real.

But Javier is no stranger to the pressure of long working hours, having earned a BS Nursing degree from the University of the Philippines and finishing a place on the Top 10 of the boards before eventually enrolling in the State University's Fine Arts program.

Now, in a lasting tribute to Philippine contemporary art, Javier takes on the cliché-ridden that comes with triumph. To whom much is given, much is expected.

"Mas mahusay ako ngayon dahil kailangan mas magaanda lang nga ma-bale-ito," she explains.

As auction become increasingly popular venues for the buying and selling of art, artists like Javier don't really have much control over which of their works eventually end up on the auction block, and how much they are sold for. As such, she seems to make sure that every painting she does is worthy of a high appraisal.

Happy complication

"Minsan siyang problema," Javier shares. "I'm happy that people are starting to know my work. Minsang yung pakiramdam ko hindi ko na mga-dala kung saan hihili ko ng susunod na."

Like many of her peers, she has done her bit of the struggling artist routine. At the start of her career, art patrons shied away from Javier's works, finding them too gentle, too dark, too depressing.

Since then, Javier has held numerous sold-out shows, and has bagged the top honors from the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Thirteen Artists Awards and Ateneo Art Awards. Today, there's a long queue for her works, new or reused if her vision with her signature sensibility for the morbid and gloomy.

"Nina when someone buys my work, nasisip ko talaga kung dadalhi niya yung mabuhay ko dahil gusto niyo a dahil

"BALLISTIC"

"CITY House"

gagawin niyang investment para lumago," she says.

Javier has reasons to worry. Lately, some of her earlier works have started resurfacing in the local market and are now being sold at ridiculously high prices.

Deviation and defiance

Javier, too, is anxious about painting to the dictates of the market. In particular, she is weary of what she calls the "auction look," an aesthetic defined by pre-conceived notions of what will or will not do well at the auction block. Since her auction pieces were mostly rendered in her trademark photo-realistic glycolish style, galleries and auctioneers are now demanding for similar works.

Thus, for her new solo exhibit, "Surrealist Core Paintings" opening tomorrow at The Podium, Javier reconnaissance to abandon the macabre and take a surprising but whimsical turn. On the surface, her new works seem on a brief excursion, on a deeper level, they signify the artist's defiance against the commodification of art, wielding powerful allegories of entrapment and inevitable escape.

In "Frog Splash," toy cowboys and Indians scatter about to transform an overhead a rainbow. Reminiscent to those with its fairy wrought. From a safe distance, a boy crouches on the ground, bracing for the impact.

The painting is a cartoonish tableau that evokes Milan Tenen's "Night at the Museum" where dioramas come alive at night. Javier presents this piece in an oblique angle, suggesting a vantage point where the viewer herself, privy to these goings-on, becomes a willing participant to the pandemonium.

Javier continues her tete cheerful

"SELF-PORTRAIT (Blue Hour)"

streak in "Sue Degli Scalzi at Harry Henry Sky" featuring a dog on its back enraptured by the visual spectacle of aerial acrobatics. It is pure, idle pleasure rendered ominous but who else is for the artist a frequent luxury.

Allegory of the cave

In branching her new works as "cave paintings" Javier makes a clear allusion to Plato's classic allegory of the cave in "The Republic." Plato posits that confinement shrouds our understanding of reality just as prisoners in a cave are likely to mistake shadows for their real significations.

In "Blacklisted Gagging," Javier paints a girl in an awkward position. Appearing to have fallen from the couch, she has her feet in a Chinese in wide-eyed catatonia stare, oblivious to the little frenzy on her diet of junk food, vertical patterns akin to color bars on a TV are drawn this painting into two different but related planes.

It is a subtle reminder of that moment in Japanese history when hundreds of children succumbed to epileptic seizures after watching an episode of a popular anime program. In this piece, Javier seems to present the trinity of confinement, addiction and compulsion as virtual entrapment with no evident cause-optic consequences.

Narrative of Escape

Perhaps the most revealing insights Javier offers in this exhibit may be drawn from a series of three paintings titled "Sweet Mouse," "Self-Portrait (Blue Mouse)," and "Country Mouse." Envisioned as a triptych and laid out as though in a comic or cinematic course, these paintings appear more as a narrative of escape more than they are allegories of entrapment.

In the first panel, a cheer appears low in one frame against a background of suburban concrete. In the next frame, a hunter is lost to pursuit, his rifle ready for the kill. In the last frame, a man lies down on the ground, presumably for an encounter somewhere further.

This would have been a thrilling story were it not for Javier's dark sense of humor. The hunted deer she designates as a self-portrait is no longer in the picture and we can safely assume she has managed to escape. She is, ultimately the heroine who cowers the hunter in his own terrain.

"Surrealist Core Paintings" runs from June 24-July 7 at the Atrium, 2/L, The Podium, 30B Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Call 4123310 or 4123814 or e-mail the author at turbovolcano@gmail.com.

"DOPE," by Alfonso Lanuza

Lanuza at Raphael

ALFONSO LANUZA IS HEDGING HIS first solo exhibit at Galerie Raphael on June 26 to July 15. "Expressionism" will feature nine large paintings in acrylic that are distributions of the artist's life experiences and his take on popular icons of his generation.

Lanuza, a member of the Garreteers Group of Artists, has participated in numerous group shows in Manila and Singapore. His works have also been included and sold to the prestigious Lucman and Masmejean auction houses.

An honors graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Visayas, Lanuza, 25, majored in visual communications, graduating cum laude. She had a brief stint in an advertising agency. After graduation she decided to take a leap of faith and go back on her real love—painting. "Even as a child I've dreamed of one day being a painter and I had to focus. Making pagsisikapin," she says.

Lanuza's dissection on her large canvases are bold, upfront, even naughty. "They're empowering," she says.

In the 48" x 72" work "In the Beginning," for example, Supergirl is poised for battle and there's a black hazel that's huge enough to squash her. The iconic are clear, Supergirl dares take on the mighty King Kong. Even as she juxtaposes these images cleverly, the artist also dares to take off from one of the most popular works of art. The work is "chiaroscuro" straight out of the ceiling scene in Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel fresco.

In "Shrafety" Supergirl is fighting her mirror image who is also her nemesis. Here we see irony at work and a self-deprecating wit that is a trademark of most of the current works on exhibit. In "Level" Catwoman is updressed into a young cowgirl riding Krazy Cat down on her knees but her claws are not poised to strike, she's scared of the sky rodent in the corner.

Galerie Raphael which is at Unit 2E-06 2/L, The Peninsula Seventies, 839 Arnaiz Avenue Cor. Dela Costa, Legaspi Village, Makati. Call 8162000. Visit www.galeriaraphael.com

CLOUDS and angels surround St. Cecilia, patron saint of music, as painted by Raymundo Francia and Catalin Avila on the ceiling of St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church in Loboc.

The 'Kisame' exhibit provides a glimpse of the stunning sacred-art heritage in the Bohol churches built by Spanish friar-missionaries

"COME UNTO ME all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30), as painted by Francia at Mother Mary Help of Christians Parish Church in Loay. At right: "For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me and I live in him... Anyone who eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:53-56, 58), as painted by Francia at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Baclayan

Visions of heaven in Bohol

"KISAME: VISIONS OF HEAVEN ON EARTH" is a photo exhibition running until Aug. 10 at the Ayala Museum. It looks to the ceilings of Spanish colonial churches that reveal visions of heaven from the Boholano hands.

A group of itinerant Cebuano artists painted the ceilings of Spanish colonial churches during the decades of the Americans' colonial occupation of the Visayas.

Several young untrained Cebuano painters, who eventually distinguished themselves as first rate artists, were responsible for the religious art that adorned Boholano churches and those in Cebu and other neighboring island provinces as well.

Probably the most renowned of the traveling band of artists was Raymundo Francia, who painted numerous church ceilings and, according to Marideth Sandoval's curatorial paper for the Sistine Chapel ceiling in the Vatican, was called "Cebu's Michelangelo."

The equally talented Catalan Avila assisted Francia in many commissions.

Francia's largest body of work is found in the churches of Bohol.

Having painted an estimated 80 percent of Bohol's churches, Francia developed his own style, even formulating his own special paint mixture that, until this day, retains the original colors of the paintings set off by cracks in spite of the passage of almost a century since their execution.

His skillful rendering and shading add three-dimensional volume to his paintings. His perspective extends vistas toward the infinite, as in the European exemplified in cupolas in many historical churches.

Many examples of his ceiling paintings, much revered by generation after generation of parishioners, still survive in the old churches of Bohol despite threats ranging from deterioration to poor maintenance, leaking roofs and bat droppings.

Magnificent

Of the Spanish colonial churches under the care of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, 13 house of magnificent, intricately painted ceilings in various stages of preservation, including masterpieces in the parishes of Alburquerque, Baclayon, Corella, Dauis, Dimiao, Lila, Loay, Loboc, Loon, Maribojoc, Panglao and Tubigon.

Living landmarks of Spanish influence in the Philippines, these massive church structures were established in Bohol by the early Catholic missionaries, called doctrineros, as early as 1595.

Shortly after their arrival, the Jesuits erected a small visita on the Baclayon coastline near Tagbilaran that has evolved into today's famed Baclayon Church. (The current structure was begun in 1727 by the Recoletos.)

The main church of square blocks of coral stones quarried from the sea that were cemented together with millions of egg whites, was constructed by hundreds of locals on pain, a system of community service.

Terra-cotta tile roofs rested on massive timbers hewn from the forests by the locals, walls and enormous solid stone buttresses. Bells hung from massive towers that doubled as vantage points or lookouts, warning people of pirate raids coming from the sea.

Pride of Place

Augusto A. Villalon

ENJOY: Mayor Antonio Echivarre visiting the church under the conspicuously painted wooden cupola of the Spanish colonial-era Dauis Cemetery.

Churches, doubling as fortresses, were usually large enough to shelter an entire village in time of siege.

The massive structures, feats of native labor from many generations past, have survived into this century not only as places of worship and centers for the local community. They are also the most significant repositories of art, sculpture and music in the Philippines.

Aside from the richness of ceiling painting and wall frescoes, unknown (traditional) artisans sculpted centuries-of-santos, wooden reliefs for wall or door panels, and exquisite altars, legacy of artists who "traveled leaving by his embroidery, to bequeath us these treasures," said Ayala Museum director Mariviles Ortigas.

Archival treasures

In the late 1990s, the archives of Baclayon and Dimiao churches yielded different parts of the complete set of the 1826 Misa Baclayana, a Mass especially composed for Baclayon church that has recently been revived by University of Santo Tomas musicologists for contemporary performances in the church.

Fr. Allan Ted Tuvalla of the Diocese of Tagbilaran curated the exhibition. An indefatigable church conservationist, he has been not only instrumental in the cultural renaissance of Bohol, he has also worked closely with both church and government authorities in the generation leading to the drafting, signing and exchange of instruments of ratification of the Holy See-Philippines Agreement on the Cultural Heritage of the Catholic Church in the Philippines that finally set a legal basis to safeguard church heritage.

Francis Jacobus, the founding curator of Cebu National Museum and Silliman's José Luego, of the faculty of Holy Name University in Tagbilaran and the leading authority on Bohol history and culture, are other featured writers of the exhibition. Photography is by Paquito Ochoa Jr.

The exhibition opens up small glimpses of heaven to us still in this world. It proves the artistic mastery and undoubted skill of early Cebuano painters (not to mention the sinews as they lay on their backs while painting ceilings).

Most of all, the exhibition brings to the forefront the traditional excellence of Philippine artistic talent seen in the work of the many unknown artists who have enriched our culture en masse.

To show our appreciation to these unknowns, more churches and heritage structures should be documented, as Father Tuvalla and his team have done so exhaustively in Bohol, so that we collectively, more fully pursue, sculptors, musicians and artists we can celebrate as they show that Filipinos have always been a people of excellence.

"LOOK, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), as painted by Francia and Avila at San Agustin Parish Church in Panglao

For "Kisame" exhibition information, visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Feedback is welcome at pride.place@gmail.com

Blessed images on ceiling

GUILLERMO M. LUZ, executive vice president of Ayala Foundation Inc.; Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso of Tagbilaran, Bohol; and Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto

ERIC ZERRUDO, director of Metropolitan Museum of Manila and of UST Center for Conservation; Enriqueta B. Bonalid, head of the Bohol Center for Culture and Arts Development; Lec Kenneth Figueroa, Ayala Museum curator

INSTALLATION shot of "Kisame" exhibition

By Walter Ang
Contributor

A FLURRY OF WHITE SURPLICES suspended in midair heads indeed eyes skyward and upward to Ayala Museum's photo exhibit on the ceiling frescoes of Bohol churches.

"Kisame: Visions of Heaven on Earth" aims to generate greater awareness of the historical and aesthetic significance of these large-scale ceiling paintings in churches. It is part of the Filipino Heritage Festival's many activities for this year's Filipino Heritage Month (held annually in May).

"With the restoration caused by San Agustin, rainwater on roof tiles, and subsequent repair and repainting of restored ceilings, these treasures are in great danger," museum/festival director Pamela Fuentes-Barcos said. "It is high time for Filipinos to have a good look at these living monuments, our cornerstones of the Catholic faith that blossomed here in the region."

Out of 20 or so Spanish-era built churches under the care of the Diocese of Tagbilaran and Archdiocese of Cebu, 13 have painted ceilings in various stages of preservation, including those in the parishes of Alburquerque, Baclayon, Corella, Dauis, Dimiao, Lila, Loay, Loboc, Loon, Maribojoc, Panglao and Tubigon.

Fortunately, commissioned by the first Filipino bishop of Cebu, Jose Gorordo, in the 1920s, several young painters were responsible for these enduring works of art. The featured artists in the exhibit are Catalin Avila and Raymundo Francia, considered Cebuo Michelangelo.

DEMPNA Duggin-Rocio and sculptor Ramon Orlina

Francia is credited with painting an estimated 80 percent of Bohol's churches. In spite the lack of formal training, he developed a paint mixture that has retained its original brilliance and color through the passage of almost a century.

Art for enlightenment

"This exhibit highlights the church's use of art for the enlightenment of the faithful. Artists worked lovingly, but arduously to bring out these treasures. We owe it to our descendants to show future generations of Filipinos the richness of our church heritage," museum director Marivic Ortigas said.

Aside from exposure to the elements, circumstances in the past, such as whitewashing of ceilings, have already erased a number of these sacred artworks. To address this need to document the extant scenes, the ceiling murals were photographed by lawyer Augusto 'Jojo' Ochoa Jr.

Selected shots of whole paintings and close-ups of details were then printed on panels that comprise the display curated by Fr. Allan Ted Tuvalla, executive secretary of the diocesan Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church's Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. The images on display "symbolize the various themes that highlight aspects of divine realities," he said.

"Kisame" had a first edition last year. "Back then, it was titled 'Kisame: Soaring Heavens.' With the support of the Diocesan Commission for Culture and the Arts, we mounted it at St. Peter the Apostle Parish, in Loboc," Tuvalla said.

Later, the exhibit pilgrimaged to different parishes of the Diocese of Tagbilaran. "Some of its parts, now separated from the main body of the exhibit, are scheduled in a number of parishes," Tuvalla said.

An agreement was eventually established between the festival organizers and Ayala Museum to reinstate "Kisame" on a more permanent scale.

Regardless of style, "A barn ceiling is reflective of its immediate environment, as are cathedrals. Ceilings with ornaments, ceilings with murals, ceilings with frescos and stone paintings become a medium of different human aspirations," Tuvalla said. "The artists' images give forms to the longings of the human soul as he talks to them; are only to the divinity of the God-head, but to be interceded, to be visited, to be like God. . . in Heaven."

"Kisame" runs until July 20. For details, call Ayala Museum at 757-7117 ext 2114 and 28 or Filipino Heritage Office at 892-5905.

Finally, a cello idol on Manila's music scene

By Pdin A. Tolman
Contributor

THE CELLO event TO BE HELD next Monday, June 30, at the SOH Francis Saltiga Hall is the first team up of Filipino cellist Victor Michael Gee and Taiwanese pianist Ya-Hsin Wu.

Gee is the prize-winning cellist who figured in a historic, once-in-a-lifetime collaboration over the same venue and got a standing ovation. (He had played without the benefit of an assisting artist.)

Three years ago, the young cellist debuted with the Manila Philharmonic under Redel Calderon through the Dvorak concerto and got an ovation a cellist hardly gets in this country.

After the concert, Gemma Cruz Araneta said that with that kind of talent, this country indeed had hope.

Upon seeing the euphoric response of the Philamlife audience, music lover Tito Ar Ongpin proclaimed: "At long last, Manila has found a new idol to gawk at."

I first heard Gee in the mid-1990s in the winners' concert of the National Music Competition for Young Artists when he was only 14. At the time, I had yet to focus on existing Filipino cellist Rafael Chino Balgos's successor (Balgos is a young blue beloved mainly parents, singers and violinists).

To be sure, the country isn't lacking in good cellists, such as Ramon Lucas, who is often heard as principal cello of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and Yusef Stacey, who recently played first-rate chamber music with pianist Lisanne Gaytano.

But in the late 1990s, to see a young talent alone to Bach Suites and a Barber sonata before he reached the age of 14 was truly unbelievable.

For that reason, I lined up the then 17-year-old Gee in my first and last Bicol International Music Festival, which was opened by Cecile Licad and graced by Joseph Evedilla, Willie Hernando and Andrew Fernando, all of whom are sounding sensations in their individual performances at Albay Hotel.

CELLIST Victor Gee

PIANIST Ya-Hsin Wu

More following for cello

Gee's entry into Manila's music scene has gained more followers for the cello and made it equally exciting as the piano, violin and the human voice.

When I first heard the exquisite line of French cello legend Pierre Fournier at the UCP in the '70s, I thought the cello had another voice. Gee's cello could not be forced in the piano or violin.

When I presented my first cellist in the person of Brazilian gold medalist Antonio Meneses with Licad, I thought the cello deserved more following than it had in the past. (It is likely enough, that people who flocked to the Meneses recital could not be moved to the Brouwer Variations came on music because of Licad, who brought the house down as soloist in the Saint-Saëns piano concerto.)

At the time, the Licad-Meneses duo was the dream team. But when I heard the recording of the Beethoven cello sonata with Licad and German cellist Alban Gerhardt at the New York Metropolitan Museum, I thought I just heard the most likely trio, better of the throne of Ya-Hs Mu.

Art patron and environmental activist Odette Alcantara said she wasn't kidding when she said Gee was the country's answer to Yo-Yo Ma.

In the Philippines, the cello appears to be in the doldrums for lack of a personality that could challenge tradition without jousting with the great tradition of the past.

Gee could, in a country driven culture, an art without a visible figurehead risks media oblivion.

What is the solution to the puny small following of the cello in the Philippines?

Female cellist Susan Salcedo, whom Gee admires, says it all: "Play better. If you play better, people will listen better. If they listen, they will feel better."

Gee is doing just that, and his buenda for a good performance reminds the naive "bony-eye audiences involved. There is always the danger of thrashing yourself from the audiences, thrashing that a performance without people listening is the fury."

Bonds for June 30 Manila engagements sponsored by the BSO and the BSO Foundation, Gee, with pianist Ya-Hsin Wu, will be heard in a master class at Mowen College Music Center and St. Paul University on June 26; Philippine High School for the Arts, July 1; UP College of Music, July 2; Northern Luzon Adventist School of Technology in Alicia, Isabela, July 5; and Mountain View College in Valencia, Bukidnon, July 6.

For tickets, call 0906.3184276.

Cabangon Chua bio off the press

A NEW BIOGRAPHY ON THE LIFE OF businessman Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, founder of Trigilis diversified Fortune Group of Companies, is now off the press.

Authored by award-winning writers Joel F. Lacuna and Eric S. Caronello, the 210-page color-printed book, "The Continuing Saga of Success," is a sequel to the earlier published version penned by National Artist Nick Joaquin.

Cardinal Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, wrote the foreword, and writer Maria Ot. Lanot the introduction.

Fondly called "Tony" by friends, the self-made and self-effacing multi-millionaire who is loath to address himself a tycoon, is shown gracing the cover page, flashing a smile against the backdrop of the Transfiguration of Christ.

Printed by Tycoon Madonna Press, the book contains 15 chapters highlighting the many episodes of Tony's life, from poverty to his hard-earned success in the fiercely competitive world of business.

In commissioning the writing of a book, Tony, former Philippine ambassador to Laos and a reserved colonel in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, says he wants to convey the lessons he has learned in life to those who want to embark on their own journey to success.

Reflecting an age-old value taught to him by his mother Domingo, after whom three buildings named by Tony in the financial district of Makati were named, he says of the book: "I want to share my experience with the young people."

He himself has involved all his children in overseeing the family's business ventures.

Touching on work ethics as the cornerstone of any life's endeavor, Tony says: "I believe that if you work hard and persevere, you have a good chance to become successful." But, he adds, "you have to dream to succeed."

Tony, a known philanthropist for his charity projects, including the putting up of the giant statue of Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, the late Manila Archbishop, in his hometown, New Washington, Aklan, has built a business empire, spanning from insurance, banking and finance to property, tourism, entertainment, media, health care, mining, car dealership and hotels.

La Salle literary forum features top writing centers

"LIT TRIP THE THE HUBBLE LECTURE AND Literary Reading Project" will be held today, 2 p.m., at De La Salle University's Alfonso Estrada Hall.

Together with Ateneo de Manila University of the Philippines Institute of Creative Writing and Silliman University's National Writing Center (BNS-CWC) will host the program which revolves around the relevance of creative writing centers.

Among the panelists are Dean Jaime An Lim of the Far Eastern University's College of Arts and Sciences; Vim Nadera, UPICW director; Ninah Rosa-Jiamzon, BNS-CWC director; Mike Coroza of the Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices; and Lisa Tabada of the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies.

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Cebuana artist Paulina Constancia's 'Quiltopia' combines quilts and painting to depict an environmental utopia

By Ritchie Lands Dover Quijano
Photos by Melvyn Calderon
Contributors

THE ARTIST'S IMAGES SEEM to jump out of the canvas. They play and mingle in a harmonious environment—man co-existing with nature.

Cebuana artist Paulina Constancia paints the ideal picture. The artist from Cebu is a total creative spirit in her creative prime—profound in silhouette yet medium but able to retain the consistency of her artwork's distinct style, form and content.

Constancia has a penchant for experimenting with new materials and techniques. She and her art form has matured and evolved from pure two-dimensional paintings into works that portray her adventures on the environment, for example.

Her creative journey started very early, at age 17 in Cebu, when she opened a fashion boutique where she designed her own line of clothes and shoes while finishing school. She composed music and played the flute as a pioneering member of the Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra between 1983 and 1985.

But the visual arts were her true calling.

A largely self-taught artist, Constancia finished Mass Communications at St. Theresa's College in 1991. She enrolled in arts courses during her travels abroad.

In 1997, she was awarded a studio residency grant at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont, USA. The residency culminated with the show "Tropical Flavors," at the Red Mill Gallery in Vermont.

The following year, she attended the residency of Art Colloge for a sculpture program in San Francisco, California. In 1997, she also studied at Bellas Artes, Instituto Allende and Clay Oli in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico.

She studied modeling clay, wove textiles

"MOTHERLAND"

INTRICATE DETAIL. The artist's work titled "Silent Shore"

FOUNDATION FOR LAY EDUCAT

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HEART FRIENDS AI

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with the support of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Of

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLO

theme: "Issues and Concerns in Preventive Cardiology and Car

June 26-28, 2008, Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium

FOUNDATION FOR LAY EDUCATION ON HEART DISEASES
A Profile

By: Adolfo B. Sollorido, MD, MCL, FPCC, FPCS, FCCP(USA)
Founding President, FLEHD

IN THE BEGINNING

As we move to the history of medicine and cardiology, many of these have not been fully documented and highlighted as in the early movements where the World Health Organization shares the following statement: "Coronary artery disease has reached monumental proportions, striking down and more in younger people in all and most in the poorest countries. Standard lies these unless we are able to reverse it by concentrated attention to its cause and prevention."

That statement, indeed, has come!

Globally, 50 million die each year, 80% of which are coronary and 10% others are include hypertension and stroke.

In the Philippines, since the early seventies, heart disease has become the number cause of death among the blood.

Despite the medical and surgical advances, 80% of deaths in the countries among the poorest, 10% deaths in the richest and the remainder rate of heart attack remains high.

Why prevention?

The cost of medical care is staggering and intervention in curbing good medical care limited the reach of the general population. In the U.S. and Canada, the medicare should open to medical coverage to 65 years which increase demand of improvement, advertising marketed and legal of medical care, resulting hospital and maternity, physicians visits, and other non-hospital.

All such change solid for a new performance of the people to prevention program. Preventive participation recommended early of life to education on, nutrition programs to the parents.

Who is in the best time?
To plant this, it's now is.
Another best?
Another is!

Person no office of a busy physician in cardiologist locker room of tobacco, which a person consciously wants with mixed boards for their non-void of the human's participation such other things, nutritious on-time the temperature per hour.

While the mind "time" may last after some would welcome reform, it does not allow the person or get to know the benefits of the life, the nature of life of the mind, therefore that motivation to the development of the disease, the situations that trigger an attack, the treatment, the most possible side effects, etc. The world does not give the physician more moments to explain in simple language the issues and let the patients to ask questions.

Typical symptoms' depict to communication between patient and physician we can initiate strategy one to another, only the a different issues or situation.

Another, not to distract pain, a patient receiving a heart attack, and knows the dark area about two millimeters. Now, it was found also that the subsequent would trigger another cardiac event, complications, if not controlled.

But the age of cardiovascular symptoms has long been gone.

Today, the person is out of something there it is time to report to the disease because success in the strengthening of a cardiovascular care involves understanding and participation of the person in his overall medical care. This, in turn, requires dialogue and communication between patient and physician.

Regrettably, in this age of passive population explosion, in the primary care of the growing and huge technology development, often times the patients are not just to take the prescribed medications and to share back after a time for follow up.

The education of the public on modern processing of the better has long been advocated by the World Heart Federation which inspired included for all regardless of nationality, race, religion, economic situation in life.

While institutions, agencies, organizations (both governmental and national) as well as individuals were also with their education of the public in one of their main functions, they are often defeating the purpose where, most commonly, inadequate number of personnel trained to the use of communications, personnel, etc.

Interestingly enough, Physicians in particular—they that are not just aimed at just with our counterparts in the western countries in terms of knowledge and advances in the medical and surgical management of cardiovascular diseases, but certainly some factors, they seem to be lacking in terms of communication skills.

Many an issue is quiet, and the so often, an endless more, misconceptions, symptoms and scientific meetings on what is new to the management of hypertension and coronary artery disease, they seem to be lacking in terms of communication skills.

Amongst we said to witness the public. But there have been that the first quality between a Physician and patient is attachment of confidence.

For just decade now the proliferation of cardiovascular epidemiology societies has given has these issues with all societies in its primary goal.

Now can't wait and something just to is done!

THE BIRTH OF THE FOUNDATION

It was then we first lived of twenty with nothing but curiosity. For in the month of early of the 1980's, the late the struggle of organizing a foundation really started, for the battle of education of the Filipino community in regards to heart diseases ensued to us.

First, during the closing ceremonies of the 10th Annual Annual Convention of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Society on the 22nd February 1980, the idea was announced.

The Philippine Associated and Exchange Corporation organized by our 10 partners joining the Foundation except previously on September 3, 1980.

And in the midst of the 7th World Congress of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Preventive Cardiology in the Philippine International Convention Center, the Foundation was formally launched on February 26, 2000 graced by luminaries and social luminaries in government and religion.

THE PERSONALITIES BEHIND THE FOUNDATION

The governing body of the foundation is a board composed of founders who were headed by the late Consuelo Montinola, with Mrs. Gloria Madrigal Cabarrus, Mrs. Imelda O. Cojuangco, Mrs. Nelia S. Benjamin, Dr. Alberto O. Alonzo, Mr. Edmar T. Jones, Mrs. Rebecca Rufino Fores, Dr. Adolfo B. Sollorido and Dr. Herbert Laughlin by acclamation.

The executive committee is headed by Founding President Dr. Adolfo B. Sollorido—supported by Dr. Nicanor Nebrida as secretary, Dr. Herbert Laughlin as treasurer and Dr. Alberto Alonzo, Mrs. Irene Laguna, Dr. Elmo Escobar and Dr. Ben Villanueva.

Recognizing the continuing and coordinating roles that certain governmental agencies may play in the conduct of the activities of the foundation, particularly with the Department of Health, the Department of Education and the Department of Interior and Local Governments and Amateur Intelligence in the signing of a memorandum of agreement on Feb. 29, 1980 with Dr. Manuel Dayrit (Health), Sen. Jose Rizal (Education) and Sen. Jose Leo (DILG).

A body of regional consultants comprised of Mrs. Lolit Arquiza, Mrs. Ma. Nicasio and Mrs. Mayo Gamboa was organized to lend support to the governmental activities of the Foundation.

THE FOUNDATION FACULTY

Recruiting volunteers gifted with thorough knowledge of heart diseases and effective communication skills resulted in a faculty of:

1. Antonino Henderson (Asst. RD)
2. Art Macilla, MD
3. Angelina Aquino, MD
4. Alberto Alonzo, MD
5. Adolfo Sollorido, MD
6. Leandro Benjamin, MD
7. Virgilio Barrai, MD
8. Nanet Cisneros, MD
9. Fernan Gamez, MD
10. Adolfo Esguerra, MD
11. Noel Eliporo, MD
12. Ruby Perez, MD
13. Maria Simonette Antonio, MD
14. Salvacion Jones, MD
15. Dionisio Cayco, MD
16. Alexander Cojuc, MD
17. Dalmido Bautista, MD
18. Ernesto Mercado, MD
19. Rubin Ortega, MD
20. Richard Medina, MD
21. Jose Ma. Gonzales, MD
22. Fausto Reyes, MD
23. Ben Nebrida, MD
24. Ernesto Mercado, MD
25. Jose Sanchez, MD
26. Elmo Escobar, MD
27. Ben Villanueva, MD
28. Jaime Sy-Ong, MD
29. Milagros Ng, MD
30. Antonio Gonzales, MD
31. Dionisio Cayco, MD
32. Florentino Tee, MD
33. Nanet Cisneros, MD
34. Nicanor Nebrida, MD
35. Elmo Escobar, MD
36. Alberto Alonzo, MD

BOARD OF TRUSTEE

ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

Since the early, Manuel D., 1980, eight years and 1 week after forwarding the foundation, here is a chronology of activities:

1980s Focus—'89

Here is the list of publications which usually have for 4 hours, later in the morning and in the afternoon, and the following:

1. "Know Your Heart and Heart & Whole"
2. "Take the Heart Test Finding A Heart Attack?"
3. "The Risk Factor for Myocardiopathy"
4. "Hypertension: The Good and The Bad"
5. "Cholesterol: The Facts"
6. "Cardiac Cancer Treatment"
7. "Nutrition for Heart Lovers Lovers"
8. "You And The Heart: Your Heart Matters"

1. Annual Heart Health Workshop—1

The Annual Health Workshop was in the San Pedro in Intramuros Health activities, in a series conducted by the foundation in regard to the heart. Specifically, the 4th workshop is conducted in the form, the workshop and heart disease were directed for the general public. Session of this, 15,000 manual to another workshop on the Cardiology in general, cardiovascular emergency treatment, etc. Interestingly, the most audience Heart Association conducted in most other public areas in the eight subsequent workshops in the succeeding high-average interest also in the cardiovascular diseases.

This is usually conducted for an hour four one while fun and we learn that one hour. The speakers are composed of experts in the Public Health and the Philippines.

1. "Refrigerator Arrest and Electrocardiogram"
2. "Life Saving Measures in Cardiac Arrest"
3. "The Longer The Shoulder, The Shorter The Life Span"

2. Senior Citizens Seminar on Preventive Cardiology—1

The Filipino population is growing older. Several ago, for short, the most common health problems of the elderly are heart attack and stroke in Senate.

For more information for this project, especially members of the Senate in the Public Information, please contact our Public Information Office:

1. "Medications And Their Interactions and Common Contraindications"
2. "Nutrition and Exercise: Their Role in Cardiovascular Diseases Prevention"
3. "Helping The Body Get Rid of Heart Attack & Stroke"

3. Annual National Convention on Preventive Cardiology—2

(to plan/start)

The Philippines is the hub of Cardiology here gathered in a few years. To keep the physicians informed with current knowledge, latest technology, new approaches to cardiovascular problems, management, etc. PCRSS conducts every last conducted, here is a national convention.

4. Annual Regional Assembly on Preventive Cardiology—3

(also to plan/start)

FOUNDATION FOR LAY EDUCATION ON HEART DISEASES, INC.
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

TION ON HEART DISEASES, INC.

associate national member)

ROUND THE WORLD

sociate international member)

ios and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

GY/ CARDIAC REHABILITATION 2008 CARDIOLOGY UPDATE

diac Rehabilitation in the Developed and Developing Countries"

RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

FOUNDATION FOR LAY EDUCATION ON HEART DISEASES, INC.

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REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

HEART FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Accreditation

Program

Communities

Signage

SPEAKERS

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

PROGRAMME

Hairloss is wrecking her life and she doesn't know why.

Thinning hair makes a woman look older. When your hair's health, shine and bounce weaken, it seems your personality is likewise affected. Self-consciousness, diminished self-esteem, even bouts of depression may occur.

Most women who have gone through this harrowing experience say they tried everything to stop hairloss, from special treatments at the salon, to a whole range of over-the-counter products. But nothing worked. Sadly, many "remedies" may have actually made the condition worse. Until they found out the reason why they were losing hair, little could be done to end the problem.

Possible reasons for hairloss.

Women's hairloss can be caused by hormonal changes. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic Alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body (androgens) which can weaken a woman's hair. Other factors can be stress, poor nutrition, illnesses and reactions to certain medications, childbirth and menopause, frequent coloring, curling, straightening, and many more. Most causes of hairloss, when they are correctly identified, can be treated with good results.

Getting the facts on why you are losing hair.

Trichology is the study of the functions and problems of hair. A trichologist is someone who has been educated in the subject and is qualified to determine the reasons why your hair is not in good health.

Where do you find a trichologist? One name that has been synonymous with Professional Trichology in the Philippines for more than 25 years: Svensson. Svensson trichologists will examine your hair and scalp and give you advice on what to do.

A trichologist - what does it cost?

Nothing. Svensson trichologists offer an in depth Hair & Scalp analysis totally free of charge.

Pre-hairloss symptoms.

Before your hair starts falling out, be aware of early warning signs such as persistent dandruff, flaking, and scalp irritations. Heat hairloss - see a trichologist when you see these signs!

These visible indications are nonthreatening, and when combined with diet in the atmosphere, shampoo chemicals or excess oiliness, they can block follicles, badly affecting hair growth.

Treatments to help your hair.

Depending on the findings of your Hair & Scalp analysis, you can decide on treatment programs including:

ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER - deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes thicker, shinier, more lush.

ULTRA LUSH VOLUMIZER - quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original hairlines, volume and softness.

SCALP-CORRECTIVE- eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to normal state, prevents recurrent hairloss.

Make an appointment today to see a trichologist free of charge. Call Svensson at 892-4241/ 234-0865/Cebu.

"WAYS OF HOPE." A rife of abundance

Ecological visions on quilt

From page D1

while living when, pieced quilts, experimented with assemblage using construction materials and found objects, did sculptures of molded metals, and wrote poetry.

Since 1995, she has held 18 solo exhibitions here and abroad. Now her journey continues with her 19th solo show, "Quilttopia," at Artist Space of the Ayala Museum in Makati.

Lighter medium

The show features her latest body of works on pieced quilts, her most current invention in the art-making process. She thought of the technique while she was in Mexico.

"I was in Mexico working on a series of clay bas-relief," she said. "I wanted to build bigger pieces but was worried about the cost of shipment and the possibility of breakage in transit. I had to think about how I could retain the artistic effect of clay in a lighter and more travel-friendly medium. Fabric and batting (foam backing) offered the solution."

"I stitched my designs over a layer of canvas and batting and then painted," she added. "Then, I coined the term 'painted quilts.' This when I was in Toronto working on a new collection with a limited time frame, I decided to paint and stitch directly on a stretched canvas [minus the batting]. So the painted quilts evolved from what I call 'paintstitchings' [painting plus stitching]."

Constancia merged the painting-quilting-stitching tools, edges and imagery of what to her is the ideal life and environment.

"This collection showcases the evolution of my painted quilts," she explained. "Over all, the images that I create revolve around a world where man and nature harmoniously co-exist. There is mutual respect, cooperation and a joyful sense of connectedness. The good news is that this ideal existence that I portray in my art can certainly be made real with a little guidance, thanks to pronouncedcare. We all have a lot to learn from Mother Nature's patterns and relational dynamics."

A percentage from the sale of the collection will be donated to the educational program at Cubiculi, a personalcare developmental site in Nueva Ecija.

For more details about the wonderful work they do at Cubiculi, check out its website, www.cubiculi.org.)

"Personalcare is designing with her and for, building with what grows, and ultimately harvesting a nature-inspired happiness and respect for real beauty," Constancia said.

"Central to all my creations is the message of love. Love for self, love for others, the love of solitude and the love of communion. And with this message comes my personal love of experimenting and learning."

The imagery she presents is full of personal symbols, like a visual autobiography. The symbols all point to one message—man's humble and peaceful co-existence with nature.

"LOVE, MULTIPLE WAYS." The art allowing

"MAN'S BEST FRIEND." One with nature

Shoping Memo

the latest fashion trends available at the Ladies' Bags department only at SM Department Stores

CANVASS BAGS

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ermie G. Velarde

High marks from cinema board

TWO "NON-OBJECTIONABLE" MOVIES GOT POSITIVE MARKS THIS week from the Cinema Evaluation Board, according to its chair, Christine Lluch. The animated feature "Urduja" merited a grade of "B" and 100 percent amusement tax rebate; the controversial Cannes entry "Serbis" got a "B" and 65 percent tax rebate. The CEB is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Rogard Jun Diego Jr.

By Oliver M. Palomar
Contributor

IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT the makers of the local animated feature "Urduja" opted for a Disney-esque feel, because it almost instantly connects with viewers familiar with the classic cartoon movies. Before the advent of digitally rendered animated films, the newer ones that employed the old 2-D look usually captured the grace, motion and beautiful simplicity of their human elements quite effectively. "Urduja" seems like a long-delayed Filipino homage that has its own flavor, but is also heavily exhibits the grazing quirks of other films that came before it.

"Urduja" tells the story of an independent, [illegible]

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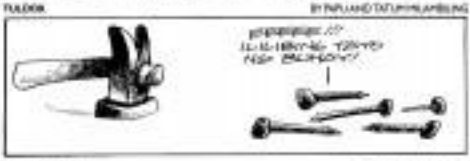
UST SMU
Phil. Science Entrance Tests Preparation
Alabang | Makati | Fairview | Antipolo | Cainta | Cebu



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hardcore work
5 Pitt Wonder
9 Seething affairs
14 Egg
15 What poor climbs to
16 Playboy magazine
17 Perinatal study
18 Queen Queen of Jokes
20 Identifies
21 Part of a 5
22 Orange peel
23 Crown colony
24 Improvisation vocalese
27 Lucy
28 Of Mars or Ma
29 Mormon
30 In direct communication
37 Sci-fi no.
38 Part of Wichita
39 Hellenic bread
40 Augustinian
42 Plan a movie
43 Enjoy a novel
46 "What's my vocation Hubert Stone, Miss"
47 Lover of the West
48 Public Toll
51 Criminal waiver
52 Super shopping
54 Very lonely, naturally
55 Tiki variety
56 Dig marks on a clay
57 Sitcom bonus
58 Powers' man
59 Pluto's moon
60 "Wonderful" woman
61 Chalet top
62 Chatter box
63 Chatter box

DOWN
1 "It all the Tigers
2 Rock creator
3 Operatic soprano Lott
4 Modernizing and saving
5 Insane resident
6 "Shallow mortals!"
7 Homer's son
8 Level
9 Detour
10 Message decipherer
11 Author's jail
12 Factory
13 Prevalence
15 Pittsburgh product
19 Sitcom title
25 Dog is a bone
26 One way to blend
27 Olympics sites
28 Ready for business
29 Sandwich
30 Diplomat
31 Interstate
32 Dog's warning sound
33 "It's Our World"
34 Sen. Kennedy
35 Biblical ancestor
36 Route to declaration
38 Name meaning
39 Hollywood, e.g.
40 1950 temperance
42 Piano workings
43 ___ Lulu Olympia, CA
44 Crown member
45 Steel throw in
47 Writing pitch
48 Permit
49 Hollywood, e.g.
50 Talk dodger's pose
52 Freedom of ___
53 Rundgren
56 Bull in testimony
57 Mother of Pollux

By Norene Blanchard
San Francisco, CA
6/23/08

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY Your humanitarian ideals, sincerity and everyday happenings. You have enormous sincerity and determination. You know a cashier. (This is inevitable, and it helps you to overcome all obstacles.) Yours are a generous and kind heart, and helping one's sense of security. Privately, you can be quite playful. An important drama awaits you this year. Diverse talents.

Celebrities born today are Sam Neill, singer; Rita Coolidge, composer-scientist; Francesca Beauvallet, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19). You might see new ideas about something concerning the number or new ways for improvement. Your creative ideas are considered. You could begin changes at home.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). A close family member will be helpful to you, especially a female friend. You might have to stay home today. Being forceful is unlikely to solve this stress, but only out on it!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21). Your creative ideas could attract romantic attention. Be discreet in your romantic activities. Be open to new ideas, especially new ways of doing things you've already done.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22). Your communication, beliefs, and ideas could create your best work. You can express your things through the use of talent. You're healthy and have a positive disposition.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). You could be in the limelight today. Your creativity becomes at its best. Whatever you dream up will likely please you and others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Partners and associates are important today. Be discreet about how you use your creative powers. Don't let yourself get carried away. Perhaps you can see ways that can improve themselves. (Be fair.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Introduce reformative happiness at work if you can. Now, this is a good day to figure out how to build a better relationship.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). You're in a tripod life. Nothing for you to do. Don't forget to read your target for the day. Your creative expression could watch closely on bad habits about spending.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). You're in a romantic mood and so want to express it now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Your goals are important today. Be willing to adhere to new ideas. You easily are bored by routine things. Add more variety and your creativity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Possible, you're in a good mood. Your creativity is at its peak. Be open to new ideas. In both senses of the word. Your creativity is at its peak. Your creativity and your creative connections.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). You have to in your right brain, working at work. You're in a good day to relax, savor and enjoy the simple pleasures in your life. You also might reveal and engage and your appreciation.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		3				6		
			6	3	9			
8			7		2			4
	3	7	9		6	1	5	
	8						3	
	2	9	3		1	4	6	
6			4		5			3
			1	2	3			
		1				5		

Difficulty Level ★ 6/23

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	5	2	9	1	4	8	3	7
1	4	8	5	7	3	6	2	9
9	7	3	6	2	8	1	4	5
7	6	5	2	3	9	4	8	1
8	3	9	4	6	1	7	5	2
4	2	1	8	5	7	3	9	6
5	1	4	7	8	2	9	6	3
2	9	7	3	4	6	5	1	8
3	8	6	1	9	5	2	7	4

'Urduja': familiarity connects

to page E2

Fairy maestro princess faced with the usual challenges, a tender character based on the legendary heroine from Pangasinan who supposedly existed centuries before the arrival of the Spaniards. The only daughter of ruling tribe leader Lakandiri (Eddie Garcia), Urduja (Regine Velasquez) questions her role in the community. She even spends her time in unconventional, highlight gender inequality.

The story centers on her choice for consummation from traditionally, very much like Disney heroines in the 1990s. Directed and written by nonsense Reggie Bonoan, "Urduja" has romance, drama, songs and colorful period action bits. Some computer-aided effects mesh favorably into a few scenes, as well.

Princess Urduja confidently loses up hostilities from a rival tribe, and even one her own datu's husband. Consistently strong-willed, she stays true to her feelings for a foreigner, the Chinese prince Limbang (Cesar Montano), even when her people motif at their blossoming relationship. She's betrothed to the proud and ambitious Idiotsbird (Jay Manalo), but finds him quite dull and boorish.

Technically good

Technically, "Urduja" is well-done. And apart from the native setting and use of Tagalog, it benefits from the services of local artists who lend their voices to the project. They sound familiar, of course, but are able to create new personalities.

However, the movie elements at times, and unfavorably, because it's too inspired by the Disney formula. The dimension reminded you of those in "Mulan" and "Pocahontas." The goofy but menacing snake looks like the one from "Jungle Book," but with a different color scheme. Stock characters, stand-ins and wooden lines abound. It's easy to anticipate a person's moves or lines, exact moments of betrayal and the last-minute saves. We've taken this journey on many times.

Melodick characters like Bakal the mouse (Michael V), Tarsir the tarsier (Allen K), and Urduja's friend Mayumi (Baby Ru-Regasco) provide the requisite comic relief. Bakal and Tarsir's English quips can be really funny, but some jokes pull you out of the story. It's strangely enjoyable, however, when they say "ballet," "loyalista," "SURAW" ("holding hands while waiting"), or some other Pinoy pop culture reference. (She who's Mayumi describes Limbang as "magkaw para wadjet Juanita"). In that regard, the film feels more like a Vice-ardena Pinoy romance.

Despite these flaws, "Urduja" is a truly commendable effort. It seriously shows that Filipinos can...and should. But next time, hopefully, big-picture ventures such as this should really break out of the mold. The better to give audiences more freshness and excitement.

Golden voices for a golden cause

Another golden page is added to the history of Philippine music as two renowned divas take the commitment for the most noble of endeavors.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), celebrated singers Gun performers Ruh Ledesma and Pops Fernandez presented both just "Golden Voices: Divas in Concert" at Resorts World Manila Theater for a different kind of entertainment.

Organized for the benefit of Operation Smile and the Philippine Tumors for the Blind, PRSP believes that music is the ideal platform to reach out to people and help them heal, in whatever way possible.

"Singing for a cause adds to our passion of doing our best to help our fellowman. The money we will raise will definitely be of great use, adding to our own efforts to make a difference already in many lives," said Ms. Philippine Quirino, PRSP's 50th Anniversary Chair.

The concert, the first ever musical event spearheaded by PRSP, also aims to showcase world-class Filipino talent headlined by the two of the most respected female musicians today.

"This concert is the best way to celebrate our 50 years in the industry, since it reminds the enthusiasm of the fans which is basically what PR is all about. It's about significant people making significant impact to others," said Lorna Campos, PRSP President. "What could be more perfect than having two musicians celebrating our passion and commitment to the industry through their voices?"

Each Ledesma, whose career includes 26 years of performances, more than ten concerts, countless music awards and 10 albums in the local recording industry remains one of the finest singers in the Philippine music scene. Pops Fernandez, who began when she was still the near sought after female entertainer in this country and abroad. She has consistently amazed Filipinos from all over the world. Together, the two stars have bonded for and since extended music, most recently in Las Vegas where Filipinos and foreigners alike have joyfully witnessed two singing sensations sharing wonderful melodies together.

"Golden Voices: Divas in Concert" co-presented by Globe, Philippine Airlines, MOCOPI, UNILAB, and Wall Philippines, in partnership with ABS-CBN, GMA-7, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Business World, and Journal Online.

Ticket prices are pegged at P3,000, P2,000, P1,000 and P1,500. For inquiries and coordinations on this event, please call the PRSP Secretariat at telephone numbers 631-1118 or 631-1116. Or email us at sec_prsp@yahoo.com, store@yahoo.com.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 French Film Festival
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

2 Incredible Hulk
11:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00

3 Get Smart
11:00, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

4 Made of Honor
12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55

Kung Fu Panda
11:00, 2:00, 5:00

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ALTERED

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 ALTERED	4 KUNG FU PANDA
GLORIETTA 4	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 GET SMART	3D GET SMART	
	4 THE HAPPENING	5 KUNG FU PANDA	6 MADE OF HONOR	7 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
GREENBELT 1	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK		
GREENBELT 3	1D THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2D GET SMART		
	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4 MADE OF HONOR	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1D GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK		
	3 MADE OF HONOR	4 KUNG FU PANDA	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GET SMART	2 MADE OF HONOR	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 KUNG FU PANDA		
	3 UNDILAI	4 MADE OF HONOR	5 GET SMART	
TRINOMA	1 UNDILAI	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4
	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	6 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	7D GET SMART	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — BARANGAY SAN LORENZO — June 28, Glorietta Activity Center
- Greenbelt — SATURDAY JAZZ NIGHTS AT GREENBELT 1 — June 27, 7:30pm-9:30pm
- Alabang Town Center — Mini Trial Fits Friday — June 13 – July 18 | Activity Center
- Ayala Center Cebu — Big Brother Big Four Meet Four — June 28, 4PM | Activity Center
- Market! Market! — HBA Baderna — June 28-29 | Activity Center
- Christian Gifts — ONENESS - The perfect card for concerts, conventions & corporate events — For inquiries & bookings: pls. call 750-7882 or 727-3401
- Ayala Museum — Museo: Visions of Heaven for Kids — ongoing until 29 June — For more information, please call 757-7117 or 25 Issue 08 — ed.ayalamuseum.org/kids
- Tri Noma — Music Lover Nurturing Series 4 @ 1 to 4 — June 28, 3PM | Trinoma Activity Center — MTV Upbeat — June 28-29 | Trinoma Activity Center

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10	Consolation Prizes

CHEER FACTOR

Unlike Oprah, Ellen won't pull out of Emmys

PORTIA de Rossi (L), lesbian girlfriend Ellen DeGeneres, who won Outstanding Talk Show Host.

LOS ANGELES—Ellen DeGeneres has no plans to stop with her four-th consecutive Daytime Emmy for Talk Show Host.

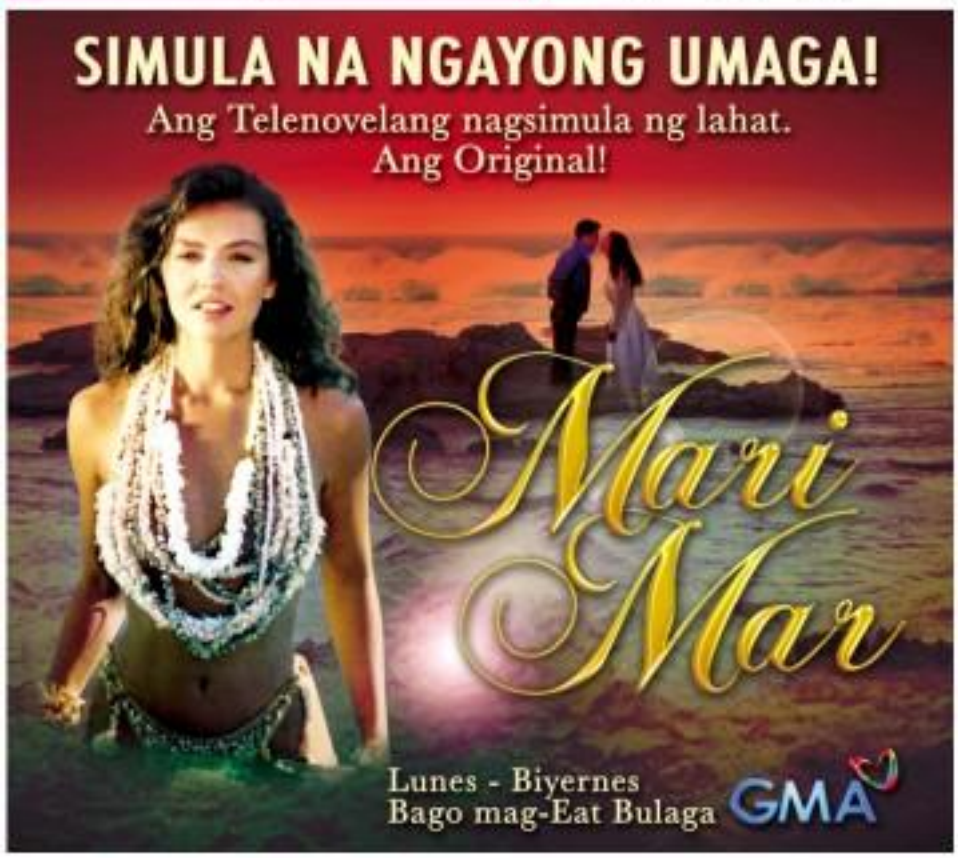
DeGeneres picked up the honor Friday night during the 35th annual Daytime Emmy ceremony at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Books "Husband Sty" cracked up a stage-ing win for the Ellen-moderated Talk Show category, beating winner talk show winners "The View" and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

Would DeGeneres consider pulling an Oprah Winfrey and refrain from submitting herself for future honors?

"I'm not going to take my name out," DeGeneres deadpanned backstage. "Oprah has made so many bad choices. Look at her names." AP

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING



ENTERTAINMENT

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Cesar Montano breaks silence on sister-wife squabble

RUBOY (seen between Sunshine and Chad)

CESAR MONTANO FINALLY BROKE his silence on the worsening squabble between his wife Sunshine Cruz and his sister Chad.

"Hindi totoo na pinalayas ni Sunshine ang asawa ko sa bahay namin," Ruboy clarifies. "Michel na mahal ni Shine ang asawa ko and vice versa. Isa ang sigurado ako ay walang ibo ang magkaaway kami ni Shine. Sinuklam nyo lang si Chad [nang pagsalita ni Sunshine] at ibang tao."

Ruboy is obviously torn. "Ang hirap ng situation na ito. Ayaw mahal ko pareho ang kapatid. Sana mangayo na ang gulo [para mapanatag ang loob]."

Ruboy is extremely caring as a friend. What more as a husband and as a brother? For the love of Ruboy, Shine and Chad should set their personal differences aside. Open now, family is friendly.

After all is said and done, Ruboy cannot be true of a husband to Shine nor boss of a brother to Chad. He may love Shine more but of course he has loved Chad longer.

Sister (Re)act

Chad, who's based in Italy, sent me the e-mail below. The plot thickens.

"Hi, Dolly. I haven't spoken to Ruboy but my ate read his statements to (the drew his name subtitle). PEP and they're furious about it. For this, one of my relatives is coming out for an interview. I myself know why he did that. He was pressured by Shine and I was told that she wouldn't allow him to see his kids.

"Di ginusto kasi s shinocks. A pyansi.—Chad"

Despite Ruboy's sincere pleas, it looks like Shine and Chad are not about to declare a ceasefire. It's sad when a family fights against, instead of for, each other.

Coming home

Gloria Sotto has been teased to death for quite some time now. She's supposedly preparing to come home for a visit. "I'll be turning 60 on my birthday, July 2. Can't wait to see my friends, family and all. I'm also excited about my new album. I've recorded all my songs na," she told me via e-mail. "I requested my mom to cook *ginataang tsa* [sauce or *bagoong* for me. That's the first dish I want to eat when I get there."

Even as the birthday girl eats her luck in Vegas, she considers a friends girl at home.

Rich affair

Guess who this actor is. He's having an (Brit boy affair with a married, older woman. His celebrity GF a clueless about it.

"Kinausap naman ko GF ko ang about nung pinagtatawanan. Wala pakinggalaan ang actor na 'pakwentin siya,'" says the older woman's best friend.

While the actor's mark-wood, it's impossible to mark his home down. Does he even know where his heart really is?

Idols

Catch "Pinoy Idol" finalists Penelope, Jayson Gainza, Gretchen Espina, Ara Mina, Hero Bautista, Jose Elliro, Jhon Clarence, Kiel Carandang, Lloyd Cruz, Princess Punzalan, Teddy Ilut and Bobby Simmons in CEBUANA.

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GALLERIA

1 GET SMART	6 MADE OF HONOR
2 KUNG FU PANDA	7 THE HAPPENING
3 ALTERED	8 Indie/Sine: HUGOT
4 GET SMART	9 MADE OF HONOR
5 INCREDIBLE HULK	10 URDUJA

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ERMITA

1 URDUJA	
2 MADE OF HONOR	6 KUNG FU PANDA
3 ALTERED	7 GET SMART
4 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN	8 CARE GIVER
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	9 THE HAPPINESS

METRO EAST

1 ALTERED	6 NARNIA:PRINCE CASPIAN
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	6 THE HAPPENING
2 KUNG FU PANDA	7 GET SMART
4 MADE OF HONOR	8 URDUJA

NOVALICHES

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 GET SMART
2 MADE OF HONOR	4 KUNG FU PANDA

PIONEER

1 GET SMART	3 URDUJA
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	4 MADE OF HONOR

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2 MADE OF HONOR	
3 KUNG FU PANDA	
4 GET SMART	5 URDUJA

LIPA

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 KUNG FU PANDA
4 CARE GIVER

DASMARINAS

1 URDUJA
2 GETSMART
3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
4 MADE OF HONOR

IMUS

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 GET SMART
4 MADE OF HONOR

ANGELES

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 MADE OF HONOR
2 URDUJA	4 GET SMART

STARMILLS

1 URDUJA	4 GET SMART
2 MADE OF HONOR	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 CARE GIVER	6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

BACOLOD

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 KUNG FU PANDA
5 DECEPTION
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

ILOILO

1 GET SMART
2 SEX AND THE CITY
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
6 KUNG FU PANDA

Diana Zubiri disappointed

By Marinel R. Cruz

DIANA ZUBIRI SAID SHE WAS disappointed when GMA 7 pulled out her best friend, Sunshine Dizon, from the cast of the TV adaptation of Danny Zialcita's "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan."

"We were so happy to hear we'll be working together. It's been a long time since Tita (Carmina) Villaroel," Diana told some writers on Friday at the Manchete Suites in Quezon City. "But Sunshine was already in the hospital then."

Lilybeth Rasonable, GMA 7 assistant SVP for Drama, said Sunshine suffered from migraine. The network decided to replace her because "she couldn't work anymore" under medication, which she needed constantly. "We asked her to get well first," Rasonable told Inquirer.

Sunshine was replaced by Camille Prats—making it somewhat after delivering her first child—in the role of Lily, the character portrayed by Hilma Santos in the current version.

"Sunshine called me and we spoken with Sunshine since week six (the shots started. "The subject is kind of sensitive," the actress said, refusing to elaborate.

Bed scenes

Diana plays Gina, the unfriended character portrayed by Hilda Koronel. To prepare for the role, Diana watched the 1982 movie, produced by Vilma Filma. She said, "Miss Hilda was good. I really felt her character's pain. I don't think I can ever be what Gina went through."

Diana is reunited rep mirth Marvin Agustin as Louie, another played by the late Dindo Fernando. "We have several love scenes," she said. "In the beginning, it felt awkward. We had no choice coz that scene first (since) because he wouldn't stop giggling."

Could Diana ever fall for a guy like Marvin? "He's okay. But I am no longer go for men who have kids, like my previous boyfriend—it was sort of traumatic," she said. She was apparently referring to comedian Vhong Navarro, Shaneen Jane Ferrer, now 3, with ex-girlfriend Tricia Dy. "I deserve my partner's full attention," Diana said.

"Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan," directed by Gil Tejada Jr. also stars Sandy Andolong, Bibsy Ramirez, Victor Silvosa and Wendolyn de la Cruz. It premieres at 4 p.m. today.

E-mail mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

Cesar Montano...

(continued)

their series of performances live at the Cuneta Astrodome of Pasay City. Aside from P.S.A.Y.O.V.E.S.O.N.G.S., Cuneta judge Ogie Alcasid's hot-as-lava hit, Penduque, Fiera and Bubble. Which are yours?

Star Star Fiesta love to sing their known one. Let "Pinoy Idol" set the standard on what we can of him.

Dating her ex

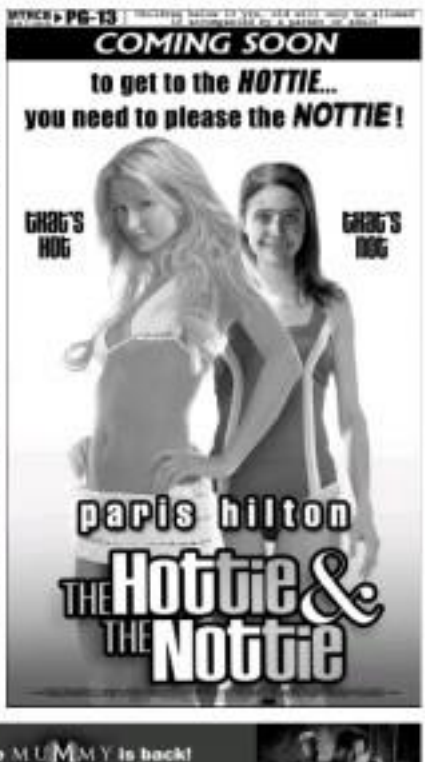
Cristine Reyes doesn't deny that she still sees her ex-BF Dennis Trillo. "We go out but it's not the same as before," she admits. "Dati magkaka-lunch kami nang minsan lang, kasi we're both busy."

Will she take him back if he wants her again? "Speaking negative nang tapos."

How does she feel, now that Dennis' new crush is Bianca Evangelista and he's getting cozy with Kristine Hakhil? "Si nanaman ako ang apektado."

Is she just playing it cool, or has her heart turned cold?

E-mail: [illegible]



Feedback

Typo, ma'am

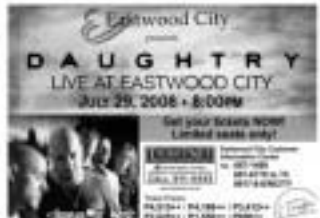
From (ladylaigie of pirata's sweep (leslie.manuel@yahoo.com)

From Nestor U. Torre's June 17 column about Ancient Planet's "A Dude's Guide to Surviving Extinction": "Street clean of Sumaya." Pito that a typo error? The expression is "street clean." (Typo error, maybe. Thanks.)

All the best

From Jojo Arenza (jmarenza01@pjc.edu.ph): Denmark:

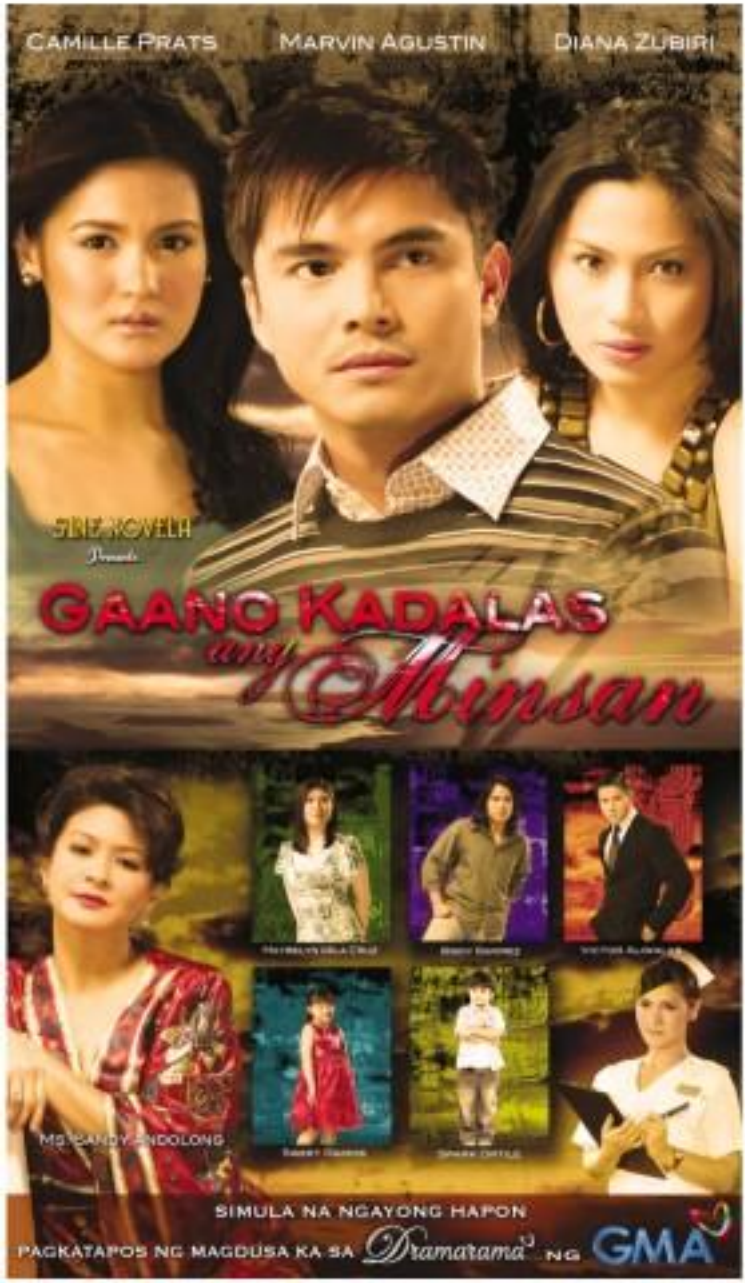
Events: G. Ilo, lords of Philippine Daily Inquirer, I enjoyed your [story] about Rudy Boscardin. All the best to you.



Circle of life

SHOW TIME

DOUGLAS Herrar Powerdance re-interprets "Bisaya Mardi."



DOUGLAS HERRAR POWERDANCE PERforms two numbers to the tune of the poetic "Dearest" and "Bisaya Mardi" in a unique presentation on June 25, 8:30 p.m., at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City. Erik Santos will sing "Your Love" and "Next in Line," as viewers rate the best song-dance pair. Santos is a frontrunner on the subject, "The Circle of Life."

"[VERTITHMO] is good," says BK Vedanti, dubbed "Flying Man" by Banyan president.

The speaker is BK Vedanti, educator, life coach, and moving spirit behind the four-year-old Save Africa Project. Vedanti has also travelled to the US, UK, Europe, Australia, the Far East and Middle East, regularly on the subject. Among her favorite inspiring insights: "Everything is good."

Save Africa is an outreach project of the UN-affiliated Brahma Kumaris in 40 African countries. For free rides, Pasadeos hotel Ang Mel of Roxas calls Vedanti, "The Flying Man." Admission is free. Call 889-7960/0 916-4272.

EMK Sunrise. 2 hits for open microphone session

'Kayganda' turns 1

DONETA Rose

THE ABS-CBN AM morning show, "Umagang Kayganda" starts its tenth long time anniversary bash today. Rowe Ilio Hizon, Perry Webb, Dencia Rose, Alex Santos, Ron Pecaleja, Kim Atienza, Anthony Taberna, Bernadette Sembrano and Winnie Cordero will give away iconic Japanese things to the radio audience.

Other surprises to be distributed starting tomorrow are 18 individual packages; 100 household appliances; laptops and handphones. 25 mesmerizing and a "Bahay Aklat" launch for four schools in the Ilong communities.

CLICK!

III Lesson Plan Contest

Teachers: Write a lesson plan based on the contents of the issue and for a chance to win a laptop computer. For contest mechanics, e-mail learning@inquirer.com.ph or log on to www.inquirer.com.ph.

LEARNING
Editor Chelo Bunal Formoso
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In this issue

Superstar teacher / p. G3
What I've learned / p. G4
Food for thought / p. G4

What's cooking at pioneer culinary school?

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

IT IS PROUD TO BE PINOY. While other institutions boast of their foreign ownership or connections, the Center for Culinary Arts of Asia (CCA), Manila, the pioneering cooking school in the country, is happy to be 100 percent Filipino-owned.

And, according to Jesus Anthony Bolaños, CCA marketing manager, it is the only school offering Filipino cuisine as a subject.

But, although its graduates now run some prestigious kitchens both here and abroad—in embassies, five-star hotels and corporate headquarters—the school continues to dream big for its students.

A new feather added to its cap recently will give its graduates a better chance of landing jobs in the United States and other parts of the world than those coming from schools that openly used their top-notch foreign instructors as a come-on for students, says Bolaños.

First for an Asian

In 2007, on its 11th anniversary, CCA's academic programs were accredited by the American Culinary Federation, which has reportedly a membership of 19,000. The distinction, the first for an Asian culinary institution, reinforces CCA's slogan: "Empowering the global foodscape."

It "allows our graduates to virtually work anywhere in the world as certified culinarians," CCA points out in its brochure. The federation is the only regulatory agency offering accreditation for post-secondary culinary institutions. Accredited programs are deemed to have met, even exceeded, industry standards.

After 12 years, the school is set up by its owner "Bernie" Guerrero, who founded the Bakeshop Concept, has developed a menu of programs that caters to almost everyone interested in the culinary arts—whether for hobby or business.

While most of its graduates and students are primarily people wanting to go into the restaurant business or pursue careers as professional chefs or bakers, CCA also has trained individuals of all ages who simply want to learn to cook for pleasure or leisure.

Special needs, too

Recently, it even graduated its first hearing-impaired student, working with a Manila Tourism College teacher for the deaf to get the student through the full baking course.

Bolaños said the graduate hoped to open her own bakeshop.

The offerings range from two-year programs for those wanting to make careers in the culinary arts to short courses for the hobbyists. During the long school breaks, for instance, it offers classes for children as young as 5 years old.

A BAKING student makes him pose here for a birthday cake.

CCA is whipping up new opportunities for future chefs through US links

Some of the courses are also available, adapted to people whose work schedule would not allow them to go through regular classes. Antonia Ai-Ai de las Alas, a restaurant owner, has been leisurely going through the paces of a one-year program that will hopefully make her better prepared to cope with the challenges of being a restaurateur.

CCA, Bolaños says, is also the first school to collaborate with a hospital, the Makati Medical Center, in developing a course that would make chefs dietitians or vice versa. The program is designed to change the image of hospital food as being bland and unappetizing.

Although the school has come up with innovative takes on popular recipes, particularly Filipino dishes as showcased in its Classic Cuisine restaurant, Bolaños says recipes are secondary to demonstrate certain cooking principles and techniques rather than the end goal of instruction.

By developing the correct work methods, he says, graduates can do any recipe or develop their own. This is also the reason the French language, taught in collaboration with Alliance Française de Manille, is part of the curriculum, he says.

Since French cooking techniques are among the fundamentals of culinary arts, students have to learn the language to get a better grasp of the instructions.

Similarly, Bolaños says the school also puts a premium on sanitation, hygiene and food safety using United States standards.

No student or our graduates without continuing to learn these standards, he says.

A year or so ago, CCA opened a school for short-term programs at the Farmer's Market in Cubao, Quezon City. Here students are not only instructed on cooking techniques but also encouraged marketing to ensure that they only get the right—the best and freshest ingredients.

Bolaños says CCA instruction consists providing students knowledge, skills, values and discipline.

The Center for Culinary Arts, Manila is at 207 Katipunan Ave., QC; tel. 436-0863/ 433; visit www.cca-manila.com.

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Head to head

A lesson plan on headlines

LIKE ALL STORIES, NEWS stories have titles. In the newspaper business, these are called headlines. The size of the headlines depends on how important a story is, so that the main story always has a headline in a bigger font than the rest of the items on a page.

This study guide focuses on headlines and may be used to help learn a language and on newspaper reading in sentences, or both.

The lessons in Education lesson plans, of which we have so far printed 11 in this section, including this one, is part of a program that teaches language skills with the use of real life materials contained in the newspaper. These may be used in the classroom or at home. The long-term goal of the IE program is to develop students-to-life-long readers.

Teachers and parents can be as creative as they wish in adapting IE lessons to meet the skills of the students.

Parents are a teacher or a parent who is a new reader of Learning and would like copies of lesson plans published in past issues, e-mail us at learning@inquirer.com.ph or write to us at Philippine Daily Inquirer, c/o Learning, P.O. Box 3332, Makati Central Post Office, Makati City. You may also text to 0917.6182836/ or fax to 8934790 (c/o Learning). Please include your name, the subject(s) and grade level(s) you are teaching, as well as the name and address of the school where you teach.

Objective

Students will recognize incomplete and complete sentences and will make complete sentences using headlines.

Materials

Copies of the lesson, copies of the Activity Sheet

Procedure

1. Introduce the lesson with a review on what are sentences. Discuss what is a complete sentence and a incomplete sentence. (A sentence is a word or group of words that tells a complete thought. Every sentence has a subject and a predicate. The subject is what (or who) the sentence is about. The predicate tells about what happens in the sentence.)

2. Distribute copies of the lesson and the Activity Sheet.

3. Tell the class that titles of news stories are called "headlines." These are the lines of words above a story that summarize what the story is about and are meant to draw the reader into the story.

4. Inform students that headlines in a newspaper are not always complete sentences. Words are often left out because only a certain number of letters and spaces can fit in the allotted area for the news item and its title.

5. Ask the class to read out loud a headline from any page of the lesson. Is it a complete sentence? What words are missing? How can it be made complete?

6. Instruct students to look for 10 headlines in the lesson that are not complete sentences and write them on the spaces provided in the Activity Sheet. Ask the class or write complete sentences out of these headlines on right-hand column of the Activity Sheet.

7. Invite a student to share a headline and its rewritten version. Continue until all students have participated in the exercise.

Extension

1. What words in the headline can be changed to make the headline mean the opposite of what was originally written? (Antonyms)

2. Identify the part of speech of each word in the headline. (Parts of speech)

Activity Sheet

Directions: Look for 10 headlines in today's lessons that are not complete sentences. Write them and change them into complete sentences in the spaces below.

Headlines in lessons	Page	Headlines Revised into Complete Sentences
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

CATERING students prepare food for a party.

CHEF-INSTRUCTOR Ria Mariano Legaspi (right) with students Al-Ai de las Alas (left) and Mats Sevilla

YOUNG students prepare for the day's lessons.

The musician as a math teacher

KIRK "Dax" Umbico

HOW DO YOU TEACH A SUBJECT dreaded by most students?

It might not be possible yet to compose a mathematics lecture in MP3 and add it to the playlist of a kid's iPod so he/she can listen to it bus, on the meantime, there is Ryan "Dax" Umbico.

Frontman for the band The Bone and bass guitarist for Chubibs, an alternative indie band, Umbico teaches math at Ateneo Javierial and Review Center.

Though he says he never thought about teaching, it does not surprise him that he has been a tutor for about 10 years now. His mother taught physics at the University of the Philippines Diliman. His father was also a teacher, aside from being a colonel in the Philippine Army.

Umbico attended the University of the Philippines Integrated School (UPIS) for the elementary grades then went to the Philippine Science High School. He returned to UP Diliman to get a BSEd Math.

Umbico does not subscribe to just one teaching style, and does whatever it can help get his message across. He says getting students involved and challenging them help them learn.

His style seems to be effective, judging from the feedback.

His background in music seems to have helped. He is able to hold their interest for as long as four hours, the typical length of a lecture.

"I think good music, since they regularly are done academics, tend to be more capable of developing stronger bonds with the kids."

He says he has learned a lot from his teaching about himself, the craft of teaching and the needs of students. Teaching, he says, is challenging, humbling, occasionally frustrating, and considered, all at the same time.

Work in school allows Umbico to devote time to his music.

Ahead Tutorial and Review has opened more sections for its review program and is now accepting enrollees for its three classes. Call 4266870 or 36

Polgrounds for the MIND

Local gov't execs to attend PWU gab on women, water, waste

THE DEPARTMENT of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has authorized local executives, including regional directors, to participate in the International Symposium on Women, Water and Waste June 26, 10 a.m., at the Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila.

Undersecretary Austere Panadero said the registration fee and traveling expenses of participants could be charged to the five percent GAE budget of local governments units (LGUs), subject to Department of Budget Management accounting and auditing rules and regulations."

Organized by the Philippine Women's University, the meeting is being held in collaboration with DILG, Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Tourism, Makati City government, Manila Water, assigned women organizations and government officials.

Executive committee chair and PWU president Dr. Amelita B. Reyes said environmentalists from different parts of the world would tackle critical issues of freshwater and waste and the leadership roles of women in these sectors.

Lindsay Benedicto Rodrigo, ministry of water affairs and forestry of South Africa, will give the keynote speech on "Women Leadership Role in Water and Waste." The speech is moderated by Ambassador Peter Vanneveren.

Another keynote speaker is Dr. Vicky Sharpe, president of Sustainable Development Technology Center of Canada, who will talk on "Technological Opportunities and Funding Support."

Former Sen. Helena Z. Benitez, the first woman and Asian president of the governing council of the United Nations Environment Programs, will give the welcome remarks during the welcome dinner.

Foreign experts will share best management practices and strategies, case studies and research agenda.

Call the secretariat at 5252888, 5304401 loc 1121/31 and telefax 5242612 and 3382158.

Malaysian educators at PNU

PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY president Luigardo G. Bonoc welcomed university educators from the National University of Malaysia, Selangor International Islamic University, University Sains Islam who were in Manila on a four-day study visit. Headed by Dr. Ramlee Mustapha, director of NUM's Center for Culture and Dialogue, the group sought to gain familiarity with PNU's teacher education program and provide international exchange between the Philippines and Malaysia as part of rebranding for international understanding. It also conducted a half-day seminar on the theme "Education and Human Capital."

Informatics prepares students for local and global job markets

INFORMATICS PHILIPPINES, a global IT education provider, offers courses tailored for the growing demand both here and abroad. Three-year courses include Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Technology and Business Administration, international advanced diploma courses in computing, IT networks and cybersecurity, gaming and animation technology and business IT are also available.

Informatics also offers certificate courses in computer technician, office management, customer relations, and computerized bookkeeping. Short courses include MS Office, web development, engineering application tools, medical transcription, and programming languages.

The school has launched over 2,000 online learning courses. Informatics Philippines is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It is part of a Singapore-based international conglomerate of more than 1,000 centers in 20 countries. Locally, Informatics has over 35 schools and training centers, including fully-equipped campuses in Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Baguio, Cyberzone, North Edsa, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, and the University Belt in Manila.

CEU honors outstanding teachers, employees on July 16

CENTRAL COLEGIAN OF UNIVERSITY pays tribute on its 48 1st year to men and women behind its continued success. During CEU's 6th Quality Awards Day on July 16 at the Lilimata Muslim Auditorium, faculty members and employees who strive for high quality service will be recognized. Those who help attain excellence in their work environment and those who possess several work attitude and either for the continued growth and development of the university will be acknowledged.

MEMBERS of the 2008 Quality Awards Day Committees Seated (L-R): Dr. Dominica Cruz, Dr. Priscilla Pantaleon, Corazon Tiongco, Dr. Juliana Rivera, Lucia Gonzales and Dr. Florentina Arsenicio. Standing (L-R): Lolita Radoc, Ms. Rosanna Espinas, Joyce Jurio, Josefina Miranda, Ruth Ann M. Villanueva, Tina Hijuros, Ramond Juris, Dr. Jim Fernandez, Edgardo Tolentino, Dr. Corazon Aviso, Thelma Jambalos and Marivic Angulo

IAME grad is TV host

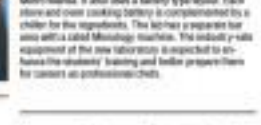
Icko Moreno and Karen Aguero, MBM graduate of International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME), host the "Tito's life job" television show on Channel 5. The one-hour weekly public service and info-document program is designed to help young viewers chosen careers. Moreno is vice mayor of Manila while Aguero was Ms. Filipina Universe in 2003.

JRU opens modern, industry grade lab

JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY students of hotel and restaurant management will be using a new HRM laboratory this school year. The one-of-a-kind laboratory was designed by professional executive chef Wilfredo Cenizo, who drew from his more than 30 years of experience. The new lab uses professional grade and restaurant equipment, with good exhaust and fresh air supply system comparable to hotels and restaurants in Metro Manila. It also uses a battery type exhaust. Each store and oven cooking battery is complemented by a chiller for the ingredients. The lab has a separate bar area with a cabal Mixology machine. The rebuilt pastry equipment of the new laboratory is expected to enhance the students' training and better prepare them for careers as professional chefs.

Cebu International School gets new American accreditation

CEBU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has received accreditation from the Council of International Schools. Earlier, the school received accreditation from the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU). The school is the only one in the country accredited by PAASCU, CIS and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The accreditations assure students and their parents of quality instructions based on international and local standards. Teams visits of research-varying visits of appraisal from accrediting organizations will facilitate entry for CEB's foundation to any school in the world. CIB is a private secular institution of the top nursery to Grade 12 college preparatory international education. It is a non-stock, nonprofit, self-sustaining corporation governed by a board of trustees. Visit www.cis.edu.ph or call 4126215 loc 1/5380-83 loc 108/20.



CHORUS Pagsanghan at HDH

Morning Dew holds parenting series

MORNING DEW MONTESSORI sponsors education programs and seminars for families in keeping with its mission to help children achieve holistic development and achievement in harmony and share the same educational values and beliefs. For the whole month of June, it has invited several speakers to provide insights and real parenting experiences as part of its Parents Development Program to promote deeper understanding of parents' role in raising healthy and happy learners. The school hopes to help parents understand their responsibilities and duties to their children by presenting them information, inspiration and opportunities. The Parenting and Beyond Series aims to emphasize the ultimate goal of education that is not only to teach children to survive life but also to better help them learn to celebrate it.

Miriam president gets honorary doctorate

DR. PATRICIA LEUSA, Miriam College president, received an honorary doctorate degree in education from Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey, United States. She was cited as a champion of social and educational reform and pioneer in women in the Philippines, and for being a dynamic example of the university's core values of compassion, service, respect, integrity and justice, praising students as excellent role model. Leusa spoke at Georgian Court's ceremonies recognizing graduates and urged graduates to face the challenges of change, synergy and hope as they pursued their goals and dreams while making a positive impact on other people's lives. The Georgian Court University is a pioneer school of Miriam College. The schools have had an active exchange of students and faculty since 2005.

Lyceum is champ in Intramuros first debate competition

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES University (LPU) topped the 1st Intramuros Debate Championship held at the Mapua Institute of Technology. Team A, composed of Ed Domingo and Fatima Cacanan, emerged champion. Domingo and Cacanan were awarded the tournament's top speakers. Also on the list of Top Ten Speakers were Lyceans Ryan Calafiafia and Barry Rivera of Team B and Bryan Costa and Iris Zagala of Team C. All three LPU debate teams in the semi-finals, two went on to the finals against Mapua Institute of Technology and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Angelicum College installs 10th rector

REV FR. FERDINAND L. BAUTISTA, OP, was installed as the 10th rector and president of Angelicum College in simple ceremonies held at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. As presiding officer was the Dominican Province of the Philippines and the Board of Trustees of Angelicum College, and the Angelicum community. Rev. Fr. Quirico T. Pedregosa Jr., OP, prior provincial of the Dominican Province and chair of the Board of Trustees, presided over the event. Members of Angelicum Alumni Class of 1980, school administrators and staff of College de San Juan de Letran, Calamba, Laguna and other schools, Angelicum administrators, teachers, staff and learners, and members of the Dominican Province also attended. Bautista stressed the importance of the contribution of every member of the community to achieving the school's aim of excellence in education through the unique non-graded system of Angelicum College.

Adamson's law college inaugurates new classroom

THE PROF. ABELARDO T. DOMINGO Room of the College of Law of Adamson University on the second floor of its St. Vincent building was blessed recently. Fr. Joel Panuncio, CM, director for Campus Ministry, led the ceremony. Lawyer Antonio H. Abad Jr., college dean, hosted the affair. Those present included Fr. Gregorio L. Gerogo Jr., CM., university president, Bro. Henry Encarnacion, CM., VP academics; Fr. Max Rendon, CM., VP finance; Rev. Lito Regino, VP administration; Fr. Francisco Magnaye, CM., SVP student affairs, other administrators, and Domingolen, in whose honor the classroom was named and who donated the funds for its renovation. Domingolen, a law professor, was named one of 15 Outstanding Adamsonians during the university's Diamond Jubilee in 2007. He was sixth in the 1986 Bar examinations, on the top ten of the CPA board exams, and number one in the Customs Brokerage tests.

EUREKA! *Queena N. Lee-Chua*

Superstar teacher

IN TIMES OF CONflict, the victims are often the children. Some lose their lives before their prime and more lose the chance to have an education and the hope for a better tomorrow.

Monica Sison, a public school teacher, knows this well.

In the early 1980s, Sison moved to Barangay Tabalti, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental was mired in poverty. Located more than 130 kilometers from Dumaguete City, one travels by four-wheel drive half-way to the town and goes by motorboat or walks the rest of the way.

The New People's Army (NPA) established a stronghold in the area. Many villagers, once farmers, became guerilla fighters. The government fought back, but in the conflict, Sison says, "hundreds of families were displaced, houses and properties were burned, and lives (including children's) were lost ..."

The gap between villagers and government widened. Children dodged bullets daily. The risk was so great in the area that Sison's husband closed in 1986.

Six years later, then-governor Emilio Macias reached an agreement with the NPA that allowed the establishment of a new school. In 1994, Bonnabo Elementary School (ABS) opened. The teachers came but did not stay long.

Sison chose to continue teaching in private schools in Dumaguete. She could have gotten any post she wanted being on the top of the list of teacher board exams. Instead, in 1998, she responded to the call for help of the division superintendent of schools and came to ABS—and stayed.

Breaking the cycle

When she arrived, ABS had 60 students, both children and adults. Most of them had already had six years of education, but the school only had Grades I and II.

To make matters worse, students who finished these two grade levels couldn't hack it upon transfer to a formal school. In Sison's mind the situation was impossible. "I saw the urgency of breaking the cycle," she says.

Sison organized the children's first commission. She also encouraged her former working pair sets to help them build partnerships but also children from to those unions. Sison says, "We let our birds with our mom. The children were registered. Also achieving their basic right of having a name and a nationality."

Sison also added more grade levels to the school. In July 1998, Grade III opened. A new grade followed every year thereafter until the elementary had a full-fledged elementary school.

At the start of the new millennium, 30 pupils graduated and became the first students of the new Avocado Community High School.

"To say that Sison was mad, I'm talking is an understatement," says Anne Stephanie Bilo of the Department of Education's Commission on Child Welfare Sison is holding classes and training the school at the same time.

Sison rolled on her students' help. While teaching one grade level, she delegated some adult students to look after the other classes. The teacher aides who take their own classes are taught on his trainings.

Sison never suffered from stress or burn-out and never considered her tasks a burden but rather "an opportunity to live, a blessing." In 2005, Sison officially became ABS principal.

Living the dream

Bright. Sison considers her students her children. Many parents, former NPAs, saw the transformation of their kids. They returned home to guide the children owing that a better future was finally within their grasp.

"The community and I never can dream together," Sison says. "We see the seven and in our dream, there is always a happy ending."

Parents and teachers worked together, and painstakingly linked with different groups. This time, the government did not disappoint. The provincial government built a dormitory so students and teachers did not have to cross rivers and walk three hours everyday to get to school.

The Department of Agriculture provided skills training in tilapia and bookwarm class cultures. In 2002, Bonnabo was named champion in the Palaro dance programs in the region.

The local health office conducted medical missions and trained barangay health workers and volunteers in primary care and nutrition, including immunizations. The social welfare and development office discussed child rights, child labor and responsible parenting. The community discovered that there were children trafficked as domestic laborers, and girl brides as young as 14 years old.

With wide areas completely denuded from illegal logging, the department of environment and natural resources (DENR) launched tree-planting and reforestation efforts. Salvaged logs were used to make desks for students. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) taught food preservation, sewing, reading and basic computer skills to residents. Livelihood. The Rotary Club of Dumaguete South built a stage, distributed toiletries, school supplies, and shirts for physical education.

The community conducted regular assessments. Sison says the municipality learned the value of planning and evaluation in the process from the guerillas.

Today, ABS has more than 400 students—250 in elementary, 120 in high school, and 27 in kindergarten. Even after the first group of students graduated from high school, Sison did not consider her duties done. She and her fellow teachers encouraged for scholarships. In return, the scholars vowed to support others from their gain fully employed, other brilliant but deserving students.

The community is currently supporting more than 10 students at the Negros Oriental State University in Sta. Catalina. In March, two students graduated—one an engineering, with bachelor's degrees in elementary education.

Scholars

Last year, the University of the Philippines opened an extension campus in the town, offering two-year associate courses in agricultural technology, industrial technology and Hospitality Management.

In November 2007, Sison received the Ground Gary Gagan Jr. Outstanding Filipino Award.

But to our movie-loving society perhaps the greatest affirmation was hearing her story featured in the television show "Magpakailanman" (hosted by Mel Tiangco), with no less than Superstar Sharo Santos in the starring role. A share of support from our Superstar to another.

For more details, contact Anne Stephanie S. Bilo of the Bright Office of the Secretary, annestephanie@ymail.com, 0921-6833 or 0915-9497993.

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of teacher education and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila. Je Electronic Comment her at chuaboo@yahoo.com.

ENDURUM Learn its Asian colonial-inspired campus in Fort Bonifacio.

Tourism education at McKinley Hill

PROPERTY DEVELOPER Megaworld Corporation and tourism and culinary school Enderun Colleges have partnered in the high-technology "green" zone targeted within Megaworld's 50-hectare new township project McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio.

Megaworld's partnership with Enderun comes at time when its parent firm, Alliance Global Group Inc., is pushing for more tourism investments in the country and aims to generate more high-paying jobs for Filipinos. Enderun, on the other hand, wants to make its students more globally competitive. The Embassy building of Enderun in McKinley Hill will house the administration offices and international language centers.

Chef Alain Everaert, an Enderun partner through the Alain Everaert Nomacian (AEN), was also active in the construction of the new campus in McKinley Hill. The AEN has drawn up a new culinary arts program for Enderun that offers the most advanced cooking techniques.

Enderun offers Bachelor's Degree in International Hospitality Management (BS-IHM) with two areas of study: Hotel Administration and Culinary Arts.

Call 856-5555; visit www.enderuncolleges.com

Mini-MBA in franchising

THE PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE Association (PFA), the biggest franchise organization in the country, will conduct Module 3 of the Certified Franchise Executive (CFE) program, July 7-8 at the ABS Conference Center, Makati City. The two-day program will be part of Franchise 2008 organized by the Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo. CFE is a mini-MBA in franchise management. So far, 30 Filipino executives have completed the CFE program. Candidates obtain program credits through professional and educational experience, and by participating in educational programs sponsored by the Institute of Certified Franchise Executives (ICFE). They are also required to go through a course of study, which a minimum of 3500 points are earned. Call 687-8886 to 89/8917-8328/732, e-mail pfa@ffoxcity.com.ph, or log on to www.philippinefranchiseassociation.com.

'Love Soup' for school kids

THE FOOD GIVERS'S ASSOCIAtion of the Philippines held its annual "Love Soup" project for public school children in Metro Manila at the Ignacio Bonnevie School, Barangay Santa, Mayan ave., Quezon City.

Through the project was called "Love Soup," the 1,800 grades 1 & pupils and 53 teachers led by principal Juanita Dongillana and Fe Mendoza had a healthy lunch of chicken-pork adobo, rice, soup, brownies, juice, sandwich and more.

FGAP president Atty. Michael del Rosario said the project was a recognition that a child's proper mental and physical development was helped by proper and balanced nutrition.

Participating FGAP members were Golden Catering, Kusina ni Kaalak, Shiosai's, Jeanie's, Bowie Pan, Casa Montano Albergue, LSHF, BBM, Pinoh Blossom, Lt. Village tea, Stick-o-Chef, Henry's, Queensland, Countryside/Tower's Delight, KSG, Hart's, El Jose, Orchid, Rado Aasi, Asamiwa, The Juan, Juan Carlo, Lina Vital, Al Servicios, Avengers, The Red Chef and CFA.

Del Rosario was assisted by Noel Bugnia, Herman Pascua, Danny Jacinto, Belen Marcelino, Amelia Nakpil, Cindy Dizon, Bobbie Stein, Miguel Garcia, Cynthia Ik, Andrew Pacana, Pete a Chef representatives and FGP coordinators.

Milk education in public schools

BEAR BRAND CONDUCTED for the third year its annual "Lakas ng Gatas" campaign to promote milk education in the Philippines. As part of the program, Bear Brand visits hundreds of public elementary schools to teach students, parents, and teachers the importance of drinking milk and how to make the right food choices to ensure proper nutrition. Eugene Sievel, business executive manager for dairy health and nutrition solutions of Nestle Philippines Inc., maker of Bear Brand, said the prevalence of malnutrition and the alarming decrease in milk consumption in recent years prompted them to launch the campaign. The program includes sessions on the value of good health and proper nutrition through games and fun activities such the Indicator. Parents get lectures on how to make the right food choices and the need to give children at least two glasses of milk everyday. Bear Brand has so far visited over 1,000 schools.

PUBLIC school students participate in Lakas Sa Gatas program.

THE LAKAS Sa Gatas website keeps a record of school children served.

NESTLE'S Eugene Cleave, Michelle Acuna, Kristine Lee and Sussex Aquino with a school official

ASSIGNMENT: DEPED

Schools must plant 'malunggay'

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) wants elementary and secondary schools nationwide to plant malunggay. Integrating the activity in science classes and community outreach projects.

DepEd Undersecretary Dolor Bautista (DA) officials technical assistance in terms of plant propagation and processing of malunggay leaves and fruits for food. It will also provide planting materials.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus is a staunch advocate of malunggay as a food supplement for undernourished school children. Studies have shown that the vegetable is one of most nutritious and useful plants in the world.

The DA's Biotechnology Program Office (BPO) promotes malunggay as a "panic garlic" as it is seven times richer in Vitamin C than oranges, four times richer in calcium and two times richer in protein than milk. four times richer in Vitamin A, three times richer in potassium than bananas.

DepEd Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) Director Thelma Santos said, this school year, her office would publish a malunggay recipe book for teachers. school canteen managers and homemakers. Dubbed as "Malunggay Recipes and Community Association (PTCA).

Malunggay recipes ranging from snacks like polvoron, fruitbits, duchi-bucchi and lumpia to dishes like malunggay con carne, malunggay pesto and nachos or malunggay lumpia are included in the book, which will also teach how to prepare chicken and spicy malunggay and pandesal gi me their own malunggay to use the powdered form.

Every school year, some 2.6 million undernourished children start school. The DepEd wants to reduce the number by at least 5-7 percent through its feeding program. (Emilio Ismael Gonzales)

MALUNGGAY Pancake with carrot and sour sauce

What I've learned

Healthcare needs holistic, humane approach

HUMAN HEALTH IS more than just alleviating the physical ailments of a patient through modern medicine.

I've realized that my medical training is inadequate to address the complex issues that have prevented our countrymen from escaping the bondage of poverty.

My concept and practice of healthcare have been reexamined into a more integrated, holistic and humane approach after I entered religious life and worked for the poor and lived with our tribal communities for years.

While I still continue to perform surgical operations, most of my time is spent in ensuring that, once the physical body is healed, the individual is able to resume an economically productive, socially enabling and morally upright living.

In other words I see my patients as not only requiring medical treatment, but also as people who need better relationships, who need opportunities for productive livelihood and who need values formation for an exemplary Christian family life.

My early experiences involved living in the remotest and poorest communities in the Philippines where no medical professionals had set foot and people died from even the most treatable ailments because health support services did not exist. People died without seeing a doctor or a nurse.

And people were sick not only in a physical sense. They also suffered from social, economic, educational and spiritual ailments.

I learned that to carry out my mission I needed others. I put my plans into action through a pool of hundreds of volunteers—doctors, nurses, dentists, teachers, priests and nuns, development workers and many others who derive a unique sense of professional satisfaction by sharing their own lives with those who have less in life.

In the end, I actually received more than what I gave. The poor, the sick, the less educated and the most marginalized have enriched my life by teaching me the value and spirituality of every human life—by making me realize that the rewards of professional service cannot be measured in economic terms and by showing us that the path to God is through our fellow humans.

Giving one's self to the poor, especially the most marginalized, has its own reward, the joy and the peace that, as the Scripture says, the world cannot give but only God can give.

As a religious and medical doctor and surgeon, I've learned that taking up one's cross to follow Christ surely is blessed by God a hundredfold. Our God is a beautiful and loving God and his love, beyond compare.

Our parents and families mirror to us God's tremendous, constant and unconditional love for us.

Sister Eva Fidelis Bilocura, a physician-surgeon, is president and executive director of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mindoro. She was the 1997 recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership and 1993 Master Trivia Award of the Alfredo Lichauco Foundation.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Guide to Katipunan kitchens

PERSEPOLIS on Katipunan serves kebabs, shawarma and other Persian dishes.

YO, FRESHMEN, before the cafeteria blues hit you, here are key guides to the best of campus and off-campus culinary fare along Katipunan Avenue, the university strip of QC, contributed by graduates of Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the Philippines.

CHATEAU VERDE is UP's version of fine dining.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL CONCIO

Where Blue Eagles feast

By Solenna Kate Melo
Contributor

BREAK TIME IS ONE OF THE most important parts of a typical Ateneo–college freshman's day.

This is when you bond with your frenemies (yes, all 25 of them) over gruesome gossip-fests, cram in finish-English research papers, hold group-study sessions for Math emergencies 11, gossip about your crush, or just while the time away until your next class.

But when you feel like having something to eat, here are some suggestions on where to go and what to get:

Inside Ateneo

On the second floor of the ever-reliable cafeteria is Kwentitos, a stall selling grilled food with tangy barbecue sauce and happy yellow rice. Their bestseller is the grilled chicken. (Price: P60-P80)

For those who prefer Oriental cuisine, there is Bento on the ground floor that serves rice meals like teriyaki, tempuranabe, sushi, and a host of other dishes. (P90-P99)

If you are health-conscious, then Healthy Kitchen, a low-milk-sassy from Bento, is the place for you. The health buff will not be disappointed with its chicken and tuna wraps, pasta, brown rice meals, and vegetables. (P40-P60)

Manang's, located beside the college covered courts, serves the most memorable lumpia in the Katipunan area. Manang (whose identity is a mystery) offers home-style pork chops, beef steak and fried chicken. Add a red egg and buko juice, and you're good to go. (P60-P80)

At the JGSOM (Jacinto Enterprise Center (JSEC...but lovingly referred to as JGSO Mall), you will find a host of alternatives. If you get tired of eat food, Manduca serves tasty organic teas and lumpias to cool you down after getting your first-ever "D" in accounts. The Mocha Pepper is a must-try! (P60-P120)

Outside Ateneo

Chia 'n Tronio, behind Burgundy Place on Katipunan, offers different types of chicken—from inasal, to satay, to honey-dijonned ones. They also serve a few fish and pork dishes, probably the "meaty" part of the restaurant's name. (P78-P126)

Also on Katipunan, above Bento Box, is Persepolis, a haven of kebabs, shawarma, and other Persian dishes. The place offers a number of box suites with pillows for that Middle Eastern feel. (P68-P180)

Those tired of meat will find Oregon Pizza, located right under the blue overpass between Miriam College and Ateneo, a welcome alternative. Their menu includes lahong, shatapa, oysters and mixed seafood dishes. (P65-P348, good for two people)

Rushing to class from your dormitory or condominium unit on Katipunan? Grab a quick bite at Bueno Bueno, which serves pinoy, tasty Cuban-grassed and Cajun-spiced dishes. They come in chicken, beef and vegetarian. (P40-P80)

Try the burgers from places other than the usual fast food chains. There is the Hungry Hippo on the ground floor of Fence Board Condominium. The hamburgers are bigger, which you can have with or without a side order of fries, also try the Tuna Chaufle. (P70-P100)

Believe it or not, P20 can get you a meal at Dampalitenas on the corner adjacent to Katipunan Extension, just to the right of the ramen hauling to Eastwood. The gastino sits from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sampler and grilled chicken are also must-tries (P20-P100).

Manang Jhanne's Kitchen (turn left before the Balara Elementary School) is every student's dream, as they give you all the rice you want. They serve traditional Pinoy favorites, such as crispy pata, tapa, bulalo (small), sizzling squid and tokpat, among others.

It is best to come here with a big group of friends, since Manang Jhanne will give you her line as many as four dishes of your choice, depending on how many servings you order. (P300-P550 per order)

If you have a longer allowance to burn, check out Casa Brendan, just across Bonito serrano on Katipunan. This eclectic little spot is filled with funky furniture and unique decorations that create an atmosphere very conducive to mattering around. And studying, of course. Fill up with pasta, pastries, and interesting chocolate concoctions.

TUNGKI Halad at Libba Dina

SUSHI at Bento

KAMUSTA napoling at Bodie's

LEMPO at Manang's

RICE meal at Kiko Food House

Dining the Diliman way

By Bianca Concio
Contributor

CONTRARY TO WHAT MOST outsiders think, food in the University of the Philippines Diliman campus is not limited to fishball and siomai.

While most of the food you will find in UP is primarily for students on a budget, you will find the occasional restaurant that actually has china and cloth napkins for customers.

However, these places are usually frequented by outsiders, faculty members, and students celebrating special occasions (like having their final thesis accepted, landing a coveted spot in a frat/sorority, close, or a date with a special someone).

If you are a freshman, the number of food places can be quite daunting—almost every building in UP has its own canteen, and there are dozens of roadside stalls selling hotdogs and siomai for students on the go. Plus, the quality of food in some stalls is not consistent. So if you are looking for good, cheap food, you will have to move around the campus quite a bit.

Here is a list of some of the not-so-fancy eating places in UP. While there are other possibilities (like the gas food stalls frequented by soldiers and library tutorials whose accountabilities hang out), these are the places you must not miss while you are in UP:

Home of one of the most famous eateries in the country is Kodic's at the shopping center. The rice meals are not cheap by UP standards (tapsilog and similar dishes go from P82 up), but nothing beats a mouthful of sweet, crunchy shredded tops with rice and a glistening fried egg. Students on a budget can choose the breakfast promo meals—a heaping serving of rice, a viand, and a fried egg for P55.

Khas Food House, located beside the university swimming pool, is one of UP's better-kept secrets (unlike Bodie's, less outsidery because about this place). It offers Middle Eastern dishes updated with Pinoy flavors (rice meals are about P75). Iseuh Chapter can be had for P175. The most expensive dish on the menu is Persian Shanda for P400.

When you are broke and hungry, go to the UP Coop. One of the places that accept half orders of viands (and turn-ordered rice), the Coop is frequented by UP staff and students who do not mind the hominess and the crowd. But the food makes up for the lack of ambience.

There is a good reason there are long lines at the Beach House (at the Sunken Garden) during lunch time. The barbecue is excellent. Tummy and peppery, it goes well with eggplant and pickled egg. You can also try other home-style dishes, like fried fish and adobo.

At Kuing the food is not great, but you can easily get a quick rice meal or a serving of pansit. Located on the ground floor of the Faculty Center, it is almost always full of faculty members or students from the College of Arts and Letters, so grab a chair early.

Located between Palma Hall (College of Arts and Sciences) and Palma Hall Annex (Plant), Canan is where many students converge for lunch. As with most eateries in UP, the food is no-nonsense cheap-and-plentiful. Rice meals go for as low as P40. Businessmen and economy students hang around mealtime, for some reason, there is always a group of students (one of them with a guitar) lounging on the steps.

The school's resident hippie haunt, Libba Dina, serves vegetarian fare with the occasional seafood dish. Try-still fried dishes made with meat, as the juices (that can taste like tar and thing) at low options, like rice meals for about P60. The place has a laid-back vibe, so it is great for freshmen who want to catch up with high school friends in a quiet, relaxed place.

A quiet restaurant in the College of Home Economics, Tsaotsiong, cans real chinese-style dishes. Cute waiters are trained by Jean the college itself. Great if you want to hold a lunch meeting away from noisy crowds.

The most underrated "fine dining" venue is UP Chocolate Kiss Café at the library by Almost, is always packed during mealtimes. Students on dates, lunch groups, faculty members, and outsiders can be seen having chicken Tapsilog, baby back ribs and chicken cordon bleu (and chocolate cake to cap the meals). By most standards, Chocolate Kiss is not expensive (meals rarely cost more than P250), but not practical for students on a daily basis.

At Chateau Verde, an outdoor restaurant, the ambience is something you would not expect inside a school: open-air patio and Tuscan lights adorn the lush, verdant premises. The food is pretty good, too—takeout lunch for P200, crepes with open-sugar cream for P110, and a pretty-time good lemon torte for P70 a slice. Great for students on dates.

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